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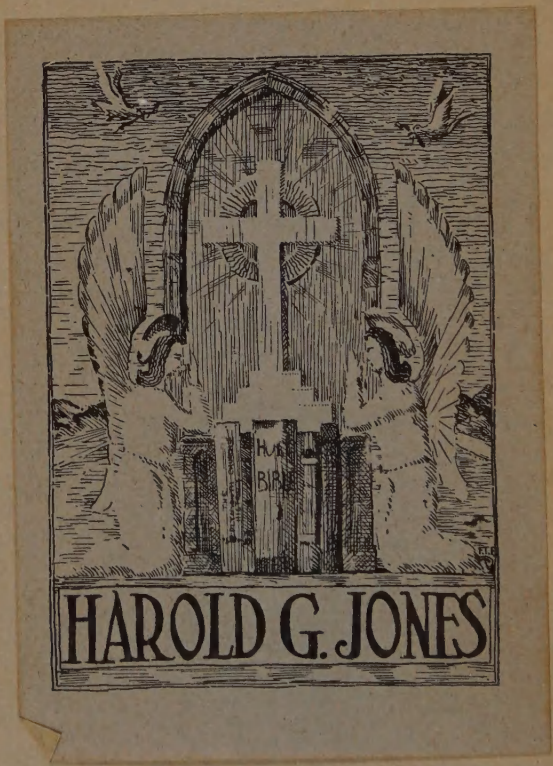
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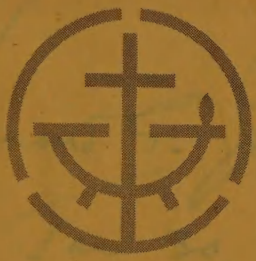

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"WHEN PRAYING IN THE HOLY PLACE"

"WHEN PRAYING IN THE HOLY PLACE"

A COLLECTION OF PRAYERS AND COMPLETE COMMUNION SERVICES

by

REV. GEORGE BLAIR, B.D., Dundee.
Author of
"The Haunted Dominie."

O that it were as it hath been
When, praying in the holy place,
Thy power and glory I have seen,
And marked the footsteps of Thy grace!

James Montgomery.

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TO

THE GRACIOUS MEMORY OF

SIR THOMAS F. WILSON, Uddingston,

AND

GEORGE DRAFFEN, Dundee,

WHOSE FRIENDSHIP, SO GENEROUSLY GIVEN DURING THEIR LIVES, WAS TO ME A CONSTANT ENRICHMENT, AND IS NOW AN ABIDING INSPIRATION.

226702

PREFACE

It has not been my practice to read the prayers used in Public Worship. Yet, because we move more easily along paths that have already been trodden, I have tried to prepare carefully for the Devotional Service by writing out the prayers to be used. In this way prayer becomes more orderly and methodical, language more dignified, and the Service perhaps a little more beautiful. In our Scots Services there is usually to be found all the " strength " of the Sanctuary, but sometimes there is lacking the " beauty " that should accompany it.

If the following prayers are of any help to my fellow worshippers, I shall be fully rewarded.

My warmest thanks are due to my good friend and Session Clerk, George Simpson, M.A., for his valued help with the Manuscript and proofs.

GEORGE BLAIR.

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PRAYERS OF INVOCATION

TO GOD

O GOD, Who art a Spirit,—infinite, eternal, and unchangeable,—grant that we, who are met to worship Thee this morning, may be able to worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

May the thought of the Infinite God deepen in us a sense of reverence and godly fear; so that, as we bow before Thee, every voice within us may be hushed, and every ear may be opened to hear what God the Lord will speak.

May the thought of the Eternal God still within us all striving after material things, and enable us, for a little time at least, to set our affections on things above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God.

May the thought of the Unchangeable God speak to us with a sense of comfort, as we remember that amid the changing moods and fashions of our earth, Thou art the same, and Thy years change not; that amid the clash of opinion and the conflict of desire, Thou art the same, yesterday, to-day, and for ever; that amid the change and decay which we see around us, we may ever remember that the unchanging God is our refuge, and underneath us there are everlasting arms.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, Thou knowest that the instinct of our heart has drawn us together this morning to worship Thee with praise and prayer and thanksgiving. And in order that we may do so aright, wilt Thou graciously be pleased to bestow on us the true spirit of worship. For we know that God is a Spirit, and that they who worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Give us the spirit of worship,—the spirit that will see Thee, high and lifted up, pure and holy, infinite in wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth;—the spirit that will enable us to humble ourselves in reverence and godly fear, for "God is in heaven, and we are on earth";—the spirit that will lay our little lives, with all their unrest, their pride and their poverty, into Thy holy hands, that there they may be safe and triumphant, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Give us the spirit of truth,—the spirit that will open our lives to Thine eyes, keeping nothing back;—that will spread out before Thee, as an open book, the sins and failures of yesterday, and that will keep us at Thy Mercy Seat, as suppliants, who seek for pardon,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." It is in obedience to Thine own invitation, O God, that we now approach Thy Mercy Seat. It is in the assurance that Thou wilt draw nigh to us, that we meet together here. If Thou wilt not meet with us, our service and our worship are but sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. But if Thou art here, this place will be to us the House of God, and the very Gate of Heaven.

Spirit of God, Who canst make a common Church into a House of God,—and a common service into the Gate of Heaven, wilt Thou breathe upon us this morning, that for a little while all the things of the world, all its worries, its strife, its unrest, may be forgotten, and may cease to disturb us. Breathe into our hearts, that our hearts may be at leisure from themselves, and that we may worship Thee, Who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, Who dwellest in the heavens,—and before Whom we bow with humility and contrition,—have mercy upon us, we beseech Thee, if we who are but dust and ashes, shall take it upon us to speak with Thee, and to try to enter into loving fellowship with Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who art a Spirit, and who canst only be worshipped in spirit and in truth ;—wilt Thou breathe upon us Thine own Eternal Spirit, we beseech Thee, that He may lead us past the things that are seen and temporal, into the presence of the unseen and eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity :—sweep from our hearts any sin that would hinder our fellowship ; sweep from our eyes any cloud that would dim our vision ; and from our minds sweep aside every doubt and hesitation that would keep us from the full enjoyment of Thy blessed presence,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, at Whose invitation thy people are gathered here to-day, to pray to Thee, and to worship Thee,—wilt Thou be present with us, we beseech Thee, that we may feel that throughout all this service we have been speaking with God, and listening to His voice, as men speak with their friends and loved ones.

If Thou art not here, then our prayers will only be empty words, touching no life to finer endeavour, or to higher ideals ; but if Thou, unseen, art only present here, then even our human voice will be felt among thy people as the voice of God ; and even our lisping stammering tongue will be able to utter forth the blessed invitations, the promises, the commands, of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Holy Spirit of God, Whose warm breath upon our own spirits makes us conscious of the presence of God, and of the atmosphere of Heaven,—breathe upon us now, we pray Thee, that the world, and all its temporal things may slip from us for a little, and that Heaven may be revealed to us, as we wait in thy House of Prayer.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

O God, to Whom all hearts are open, and all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid,—cleanse our

hearts, we beseech Thee, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that throughout this service, we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, from Whom all holy thoughts, all clean desires, and Christlike intercessions come,—deliver us now from all coldness of heart and wandering of mind, that, with stedfast thought and kindling desire, we may worship Thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, Who hast brought us together from different homes and from different places, in order that we may praise and worship in thy holy Temple,—be present with us now, we pray Thee. Without the presence of thy Holy Spirit, we cannot worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Except He will direct our thoughts, we know not what things we ought to pray for. Except He will inspire our hearts, there will be no warmth in our prayers, and no horizon in our outlook.

Spirit of God, without Whose presence our services are simply of the earth,—breathe on us, we pray Thee, to give us something of the atmosphere of Heaven, to draw us into the secret place of the Most High, and underneath the shadow of the Almighty.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, Who art in heaven, whilst we are on the earth,—wilt Thou send down upon us now Thy Holy Spirit, that He may bring us into that spirit of reverence and deep devotion without which we cannot worship Thee, in Spirit and in truth. Wilt Thou, through Thy Holy Spirit, shut out from our hearts and from our minds this morning all that would hinder us from laying our lives upon Thine altar, and from yielding ourselves in perfect submission to Thy holy will.

O God, Who all unseen, art ever present among those who, in reverence and godly fear come together to worship Thee; breathe on us this morning, that at thy breath we may be quickened into fuller life; that the seen and temporal may yield to the unseen and eternal; that the angels of God may be ascending and descending upon the sons of men; and that, for a brief spell of time, we may see and hear no man save Jesus only.

We cannot worship Thee unless Thou wilt touch our hearts with the spirit of worship. We cannot praise Thee unless Thou wilt tune our hearts into harmony with Thine. We cannot proclaim Thy mercy and love, unless Thou wilt touch our lips with a live coal from off Thy Holy Altar. We depend upon Thee altogether for the real success of our worship,—the profit of our service. If Thou art not here, we cannot see Thee; if Thou dost not send the inspiration, we cannot worship Thee. If Thou art here, life and service will be good for us; light will arise in our darkness, and peace in the midst of our troubles. Amen.

O God, Who hast told us to draw nigh unto God, that He may draw nigh unto us,—help us, we beseech Thee, so to still our hearts before Thee this morning, that it will be possible for Thee to draw nigh unto us, and to warm our lives and our spirits by Thy presence here to-day.

Thou wouldst have us draw nigh unto Thee with a heart purged from dead works, and with a conscience void of offence. And in order that this may be possible, we open our hearts before Thee now, that Thou mayest behold them, their sin, their meanness, their unworthiness; and, keeping nothing back, we would lay our lives upon Thine altar, that they may be wholly surrendered, and wholly purged, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Thou wouldst have us draw nigh unto Thee with humble and with contrite hearts; because it is in the humble and contrite heart that Thou art pleased to dwell. So we would

humble ourselves to the dust before Thee, asking Thee, Who art in heaven, to meet with us who are on earth, to tarry with us, and to speak with us, as we wait in Thy presence,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, for Whom our souls are athirst, and for whose fellowship we long as thirsty men in a dry, parched land:—wilt Thou be pleased to look upon this Congregation of Thy waiting people, and manifest Thyself unto them, as Thou dost not unto the world,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We cannot do without Thee. Our toil is not sufficient to satisfy our spirits; our pleasures leave us still unfilled and an hungered: our studies leave us with a deeper aching of the heart. O come, and fill to-day our thirsty souls, and lead us all to the fountains of the Water of Life.

O God, Who through the Eternal Spirit, canst still speak to the hearts of men and women:—breathe on us as we wait here, that we all may hear Thy word, and give it abundant entrance into our lives, and by it be strengthened and redeemed,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, Who hast called thy people together this morning, that they may worship Thee in this place;—wilt Thou help us, we beseech Thee, through Thy Holy Spirit, so to dispose our thoughts and our aspirations before Thee, that we shall be able to worship Thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit, and in truth.

Touch our hearts with a deep sense of reverence, that we may remember that we are on earth and Thou art in heaven; and that before Thee the angels and archangels continually do cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God of Sabbaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory."

Touch our hearts with a sense of gratitude for all that Thou hast done for us; for thy loving kindness, which is better than life; and for Thy tender mercies, which are all

through life. So, with hearts that are touched with gratitude, we shall sing Thy praise with joyful lips, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, from Whom all blessings flow, we thank Thee for the blessing of the Sabbath day, its rest and its worship; and we pray that these may be made real to us as we wait in Thy House to-day.

We thank Thee for the blessing of rest. May everyone within this Church to-day be freed from the burden of unrest and of disquiet. Help us to leave without the Church all our worries and anxieties; help us to lay upon the altar of Thine heart all our burdens and our problems; and give us here and now the rest that belongeth to the people of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee too for the blessing of worship. May all who are here be able to worship Thee this day with heart and voice. In order that this may be so, remove from us any spirit of sinfulness, of envy, of hate, that would come between us and the highest things. If there is anything in our lives that stands between us and the blessing this morning, remove it from us here and now, we pray Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, Who, through the mouth of Thy holy Apostle, hast said, "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you;"—wilt Thou fulfil that promise in our experience to-day, and draw nigh unto us, as we wait before Thee here. We are very conscious that we cannot live our lives without Thee. Thou art as essential to our souls as the air of heaven is to our lungs, and the light of heaven is to our eyes. In order that our souls may live; in order that we may see beyond the limits of the earthly things; in order that we may pass beyond the dominion of the seen and temporal, be pleased to draw nigh unto us, as we take our place within Thy Holy House this day.

And in order that we may draw nigh to Thee, wilt Thou give us clean hearts and pure lives. If there be in us anything that would hinder our approach to God,—anything that would keep us in the thraldom of the world and the flesh and the Devil,—give us grace, sufficient grace, to lay it on the altar, and with no barrier between us and Thy fellowship, to look with open vision into the face of God.

O Christ, Who art the new and living way by which men draw nigh to God,—take control of every one of us to-day. Take us by the hand, and lead us away from ourselves; away from our sins; away from all our worries, our cares, our perplexities, into the Holy of Holies.

We ask it in Thy Name. Amen.

O God, Who hast wakened us to a new day, and called us into Thy presence:—we thank Thee, that, with every dawn, there comes to us a renewal of Thy gracious promises; a repetition of Thy kind invitations; a revival of Thy loving kindness and Thy tender mercies.

And we, who have come together into Thy House of prayer, would refresh ourselves by recalling these wonderful revelations. We would look into Thy kind face; we would listen to Thy loving voice; we would touch the hem of Thy garment, as Thou movest about among us.

And to this end, wilt Thou breathe Thy Holy Spirit upon us; that every energy in us may be quickened, and made receptive; that every faculty may be consecrated to Thy service; that every need of the heart may be met and satisfied.

Let no one go from this Church without having seen and received that revelation of God which will bless us, and help us, and make us go about among our fellows as those who have seen Jesus.

We ask it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TO GOD—AS FATHER

O God, Whose name is Father, and Whose attitude to us is that of a father toward his children,—wilt Thou look on us to-day, as we draw nigh to worship Thee; and make us very conscious that in all we say, and think, and do, throughout this service, we are not alone, for our Father is with us.

Give us the feeling this morning that we are all Thy children, gathered together as one family within our Father's house. Let there be no barriers of separation between us this morning; but grant that all differences of position, of spirit, of outlook, of vision, may be laid upon the altar of consecration, that we all may be one, as Thou, Father art in Christ, and Christ in Thee.

"And if children, then heirs,—heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ". O help us this morning to begin to live up to the dignity of our calling, and to take from Thee that larger vision, that fuller life, that joyous faith, which ought to be ours, since the Eternal God is our Father, and underneath us are the everlasting arms. Amen.

O God, Who guidest the affairs of this world, directing and controlling them for Thine own wise purposes,—guide and direct the spirit of our worship this morning, we beseech Thee, that through our human intercourse we may be drawn to have fellowship with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Father, all-wise and wonderful, Who by Thy power dost direct and control the varied wills and various ways of men, so that from their different actions Thy purposes and plans are brought to pass,—do Thou so speak to us throughout this service, that every thought of ours, every wish and every desire, may be submitted to Thee, may be laid upon Thine altar, and so may fall into line with Thy desire for us, leading us toward the stature of perfect manhood, even of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Holy Spirit, Whose divine breath can still inspire our human lives, touching them to fairer issues, and raising them to purer heights,—inspire us this morning, we pray Thee, that, every mean and selfish thing being shed from our lives, we may be filled with Thy fellowship, consoled by Thy comfort, and blest with the beauty of Thy house, even of Thy Holy Place,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Oh Father, Who art high and holy, and of purer eyes than to behold iniquity,—give us the spirit of deep reverence, as we draw nigh to Thee this morning.

In lowliness of heart, yet with great wistfulness of spirit, we would remind Thee of Thy promise, and would pray for its fulfilment in our experience,—"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

Hasten on that blessed time in our experience, O Father, when with new hearts,—with hearts that condemn us not in Thy presence,—we shall come to worship Thee, with no barrier between us and Thy Blessed Face.

We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, the Father of everlasting mercy, Who, in Thy love and care for man, hast opened for him a way to the heart and to the home of the Eternal,—be near us, we pray Thee, as we seek this morning to enter into this privilege, and to share this fellowship, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If we, who are evil, know how to give good gifts unto our children, how much more shall our Father in heaven give the great gift of the Holy Ghost to those who ask!

We do ask, O God. Be graciously pleased to give, we pray Thee. For we cannot worship, and we cannot pray, except the Spirit help our infirmities.

" Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire ". We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

O God, our Father, before Whom men and women of every clime and coast are bending in solemn worship this morning,—we thank Thee for the privilege of associating ourselves with that great company which no man can number ; and we ask that the influence of our united prayers may be felt in every gathering of Thy people to-day.

In our darkness be Thou the Sun of Righteousness arising with healing in His wings.

In our ignorance be Thou the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, to guide us into the secret place of the Most High.

In our blind groping toward the Highest, be Thou the kindly light that guides our faltering footsteps.

In our hungering and wearying after God, be Thou the exceeding great reward of our souls.

O satisfy us early with Thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

O satisfy each longing soul ; and fill each hungry soul with goodness.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TO GOD—AS SON

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, through the eternal Spirit, didst offer Thyself a sacrifice for the sins of the world,—accept, we beseech Thee, every sacrifice that is offered unto Thee in this Church and in all the Churches of Thy great Evangel. Lest our service and sacrifice should be empty and vain, send into our midst that same Eternal Spirit, that He may breathe on all our service, and make it acceptable, well-pleasing in Thy sight.

So shall our sacrifice of praise mingle with the strains of the glad new song before the Throne.

So shall our sacrifice of prayer bring us face to face with the Unseen and Eternal.

So shall our sacrifice of preaching lead us anew to the altar of consecration.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, Who, on the dusty roads of life, didst speak to weary travellers words of help and inspiration, wilt Thou draw near this morning to meet these travellers upon life's road who have come together seeking Thee,—that they too may listen to the wonderful words of life which Thou canst speak to all who care to hear.

As on these roads of life Thou didst send men away with comfort and courage in their hearts; so do Thou give to us, as we wait beside Thee now, a word in season for all who are weary, and a word of encouragement for all who are afraid. So that, as we leave this place, we may feel that we are not alone to face life's lonely experiences, or to go through its terrifying crises.

"Thy word has still its ancient power!" Come, as we are assembled in the House of God, and speak Thy word of power to every soul.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, Who in thine own person, didst reveal unto us the unseen and eternal God,—wilt Thou stand among us in our service this morning, and make Thyself known unto us in such a way that we shall all feel that this is indeed the House of God and the very Gate of Heaven.

Wilt Thou so reveal to us the heart of the Eternal that every one of us will catch a glimpse of His goodness, and become assured that through everlasting mercy we have been forgiven and made whiter than the snow.

Wilt Thou so reveal to us the Face of God that we shall all feel that we have been in His Presence, and that, surrounded by the things of time, we are in closest contact with the things of eternity.

We ask it in Thy Name. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, Who didst so bless the few loaves and fishes that they satisfied the hunger of a vast multitude of people ; wilt Thou bestow Thy blessing upon us this morning, we beseech Thee, so that from the poor store of words and thoughts which we bring with us, this whole gathering of Thy people may be satisfied and filled.

Thyself hast brought them to this place with the sense of need in their hearts : they have come here, looking to Thee to give them the message they require. It is not in us to do so. Thou, and Thou alone canst supply all their need according to Thy riches in glory. If Thou wilt breathe upon us that we may receive the Holy Ghost, then the miracle of the loaves and fishes may be repeated among us, and there will be enough and to spare for all Thy hungry people.

Come among us with power this morning. We ask it in Thy Name. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, Who, in Thy loneliest and darkest hour, didst ever find a ready refuge in the heart and in the love of the Father,—help us, we pray Thee, in our hours of loneliness and disappointment to flee for refuge to that same haven, and to seek our shelter by that same rock.

Within this Church to-day are disappointed souls, weary spirits, anxious hearts, wounded, broken, bereaved lives. O Refuge of the weary, draw all such unto Thee to-day. O Shelter of the storm-tossed, bid all angry waves be still. O Friend of all fearful hearts, help us all to remember that Thou hast overcome the world ; and that in Thy holy keeping we are safe. Amen.

TO GOD—AS HOLY GHOST

Spirit of God, Who art the life of our service, the inspiration of our preaching, and the helper of our prayers,—wilt Thou draw nigh to us this morning, and breathe upon us thine own holy influence, that this service may be enlivened and thrilled by thy presence, and that every worshipper may feel a quickening of pulse and of life because Thou art here. Inspire our preaching, that we may have a message to give to thy people, which will uplift them from the tyranny of common things. and bring them into fellowship with God. And inform our prayers, for Thou knowest what we ought to ask for, and what is our infirmity in asking ; and Thou hast promised to help our infirmities, and to intercede for us before the Throne on high.

Spirit of God, Who art able to make a common Church into an anteroom of Heaven,—come and attend with us this morning, and bless every soul before Thee,
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of God, Who hast promised to teach Thy servants the message which they shall proclaim,—inspire, we pray Thee, every servant of Thine, who stands before his people this morning, so that our teaching and our preaching may not be with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit of God and of power ; so that men and women may be sanctified through the Spirit, as they listen to the message ; so that men and women may lose sight, for a brief space, of earthly things,—and may see no man save Jesus only.

Spirit of God, Who in the days of old, didst, in the form of a dove, descend upon our Lord Jesus,—descend, we pray Thee, upon this waiting congregation ; that we may come face to face with eternal realities ; that we may be led to make eternal decisions ; that the seen and temporal may give place to the things unseen and eternal,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Spirit of God, Whose fruits are love, and joy, and peace,—breathe on us, we pray Thee, as we gather to Thy presence this morning, that something of Thy heavenly fruits may be found in our lives, to the praise and glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We need that love of Thine, lest in our selfishness we forget our brethren ; lest we take Thy mercies for our own selfish purposes, and forget to render praise to Thee for all the gracious benefits which Thou hast bestowed on us.

We need that joy of Thine, that our service here may be transfigured, and that, from our places in a common kirk, we may find ourselves uplifted on the wings of song, into the company of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We need that peace of Thine, that in these days of turmoil and unrest, we may still be assured that all is well, and that even the disquiet is working for the glory of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In order that these blessed fruits may be with us, and remain, O draw near, and set Thy seal upon us, Thou Spirit of the Everlasting God,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Spirit of God, Who knowest what things we have need of before we ask ;—look upon these, Thy waiting people before Thee this morning, and answer their prayers, silent, or voiced, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Interpret the longings of every soul before Thee, that they all may be blest and satisfied.

Translate for them their wistful, unvoiced desires, and shew them what it is that they require. And if Thou canst not give us just the things we want,—give us, we beseech Thee, these better things,—the things we need.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and . . . watereth the earth . . . that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater: so shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Spirit of God, Who alone canst breathe upon the Word, and make it fruitful and life-giving as the rain that cometh down from above,—breathe upon us this morning, we beseech Thee, that though our speech and our preaching be in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling, it may yet be in demonstration of the Spirit, and under the power of the Spirit,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Thou, to Whom all things are unveiled, and from Whom nothing is hidden,—look down on all Thy Churches throughout this and other lands to-day, we pray Thee; and wing the words of those who speak, that the Church's message may find an entrance into human life, and may bring forth fruit unto Life Eternal,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of God, Who, through the foolishness of preaching, hast throughout the centuries saved Thy people who believe,—breathe upon this Congregation this morning, we beseech Thee, that this whole service may be for the salvation of souls,—for the bringing of men into saving touch with Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Breathe upon the preacher, that his message may not be of himself but of Christ Jesus the Lord; and so inspire him by Thy breath, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Breathe upon the Congregation, that hearts, which have been hardened by familiarity with sin, may be softened and made responsive; that minds, blinded by the god of this

world, may be illumined to-day by the Light of the world ; that wills, which have been opposed to Thee, may be made submissive to Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We ask it in His Name. Amen.

Spirit of God, Who hast promised to reveal to the child-like heart the things which are hidden from the wise and the prudent, be with us this morning, we pray Thee, that, looking unto Thee with the eyes of little children, and believing on Thee with the hearts of little children, we may receive the blessing, and behold the vision of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Spirit of God, Who canst reveal to spirit-filled men the things which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, be with us now, we pray Thee, that we may be caught up into the power of this revelation, and may see and hear unspeakable things. Give us the vision of a Father's love, that we may trust Thee with our whole heart. Give us the vision of a Saviour's grace, that we may make entire submission to Him. Give us the vision of a heart at peace, that we may covet earnestly this best gift, and seek it at thy hands.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of God, Who didst come to the disciples as the living breath of Jesus Christ, be present with us this morning. May the atmosphere of this service be to us as the breath of Jesus ; and may we feel the throbbing of his heart, as we keep watch within this house.

Without Thee, our service is as the sounding brass and the tinkling cymbal,—a sound and a melody that mean nothing for our soul. But Thou, by Thy kindly presence, O Spirit of God, canst transfigure the commonest service, and make it divine ; canst warm the coldest heart, and make it responsive ; canst transform our common church into the House of God, the very Gate of Heaven.

Do this for us to-day, O Spirit of the living God, that in this place we may feel that the angels of God are ascending and descending upon the sons of men.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of God, Whose coming to us is as the gentle dew from heaven, falling softly and silently upon a thirsty ground ;—do Thou draw near to every one of us this morning, that our thirsty souls shall be filled and satisfied, and our longing spirits shall be abundantly blest in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Spirit of God, Who bearest witness of Jesus, and bringest to our remembrance whatsoever He has spoken unto us ;—do Thou so breathe upon us to-day, that we shall feel that throughout this entire service we have been with Jesus, gazing on His blessed face ; listening to His blessed words ; and receiving a benediction from His blessed hands.

Spirit of God, without Whom we cannot worship God in spirit and in truth ; do Thou so be present in our worship this morning, that we shall be raised into an atmosphere of spirit ; that the world and its insistent demands shall be awhile forgotten ; and that we shall be with Thee in heavenly places,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of God, Whose sweet and holy influence can lead us from the things of sense to the things of spirit ; and from the things of time to the things of eternity ;—wilt Thou so breathe upon this waiting congregation of Thy people to-day, that through the medium of the things we touch, and see, and hear, we may be brought into touch with those " things unspeakable ", which can uplift our souls, and fill them full of vision and of joy.

As we wait in the company of our fellow men and women here, make us very sensible that Thou too hast joined our company ; and that besides those whom we see

and know, there standeth among us One whom we see not, and know not.

As we sit in the shelter and security of this House, wilt Thou help us to feel that we have attained that safety that comes from reliance upon Him who is " a hiding place from the winds and a covert from the tempest ".

As we worship Thee in the peace of this day, amid its sunshine and its song, bring us out to Calvary, and let us feel that we are sitting under the shadow of a Cross.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of God, Who at the first didst breathe into the dead clay, and didst make it to become a living soul :—breathe upon this waiting congregation of Thy people, we beseech Thee, that every soul in Thy presence may be quickened by Thy life. Breathe on us, that warmed by Thy living breath, we may feel that this is none other than the house of God and the very gate of Heaven.

Lest any of us should fail to see God in this service, do Thou breathe into us the power of vision, that we may catch sight of Him here.

Lest any of us should fail to receive the message that we need, wilt Thou breathe into us a whisper of Thy word, that we may be encouraged, or comforted, or inspired.

Lest any of us should fail to respond to Thine advances, and so miss our highest good, wilt Thou breathe in on us a warm and loving atmosphere, in which we shall feel ourselves at home in our Father's house, and surrounded by our Father's love.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of God, Who dost reveal unto us those precious things which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man,—wilt Thou breathe upon us

this morning, as we wait before Thee, that those hidden and eternal things may be brought within our reach ; and that, for a little while at least, this Church may be charged with the very breath of God.

Breathe on us, and the atmosphere of heaven will be about us ; and all the worries of our common tasks, and all the restlessness of our common days will depart from us.

Breathe on us ; and every voice from the outside world, its clamour and its strife shall cease ; and we shall listen here to what God the Lord will speak.

Breathe on us ; and with that sacred breath will come the sacred vision ; and we shall see no man save Jesus only.

We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Spirit of God, by Whom we are sealed unto the day of redemption, let this Sabbath on which we have entered, be a day of redemption throughout all the world, we beseech Thee. Not unto us alone, be the blessing, O God ; but unto all Thy waiting people, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. Not to Thy waiting people only be the blessing ; but unto all men everywhere. Breathe on the dry bones, O Spirit of the Lord, that they may live. We are beaten. We cannot do it by preaching alone. We cannot create among men an hunger for the word of God. It is not in us who preach or pray. O Spirit of the living God, breathe a revival breath across the world, and waken human hearts so that they may find no real rest till they are resting in the peace that passeth knowledge.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of God, by Whom alone we are able to discern spiritual things, and to look into the things that are unseen and eternal,—wilt Thou breathe upon us this morning, we beseech Thee, that every one present in this Church may

feel that we have been with God ; that He has spoken with us as we tarried in His presence ; that He has made us stronger to meet the world's temptation, and to abide faithful during the coming days of the week.

If Thou art not here, O Spirit of God, our words have no power to reach the hearts or to touch the consciences of men. But if only Thou art with us, then this place will be instinct with Thy presence ; the words of Thy ministering servant will be in demonstration of the Spirit of God, and with power ; the hearts of the hearers will be opened to receive a blessing, and to make response to Thine appeals. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Amen.

TO GOD—AS TRINITY

O God, the Father, Who hast invited us to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,—do Thou take from our hearts whatever there is there that is out of harmony with Thy divine purity and holiness,—that, being cleansed and sanctified, we may be able this morning to worship Thee who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

O God, the Son, Who hast promised to be in the midst of Thy worshipping people everywhere,—fulfil that promise unto us this day, we pray Thee, that this house may become to us as a Bethel, where we shall hear the voice of God speaking unto us, and shall see the angels of God ascending and descending upon the sons of men.

O God, the Holy Ghost, Who alone canst inspire the preacher, and give to the congregation that atmosphere in which the sense of fellowship will abide,—breathe on us this morning, we pray Thee, in order that the atmosphere of Heaven may be about us as we wait, and the vision of the highest may steal in upon us as we pray,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, Whose love for us is the love of a father for his children, speak to thy children this morning, we beseech Thee, out of thy fatherly heart, and make them to feel that they are all one family in Christ, as they wait before Thee.

O Lord Jesus, Whose love for us is the love of One who has shared our human weakness, and worn our human flesh,—look down on us in pity, as with all our frailties and our failures, we lay our lives once more upon Thy holy altar.

O Holy Spirit, Whose love toward us is ever tender and gracious and sweet,—so wilt Thou draw away our thoughts this morning from all worldly things,—all worries and all disquiet,—that we shall feel ourselves to be at the feet of Jesus, and gazing into his face.

We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, from Whom all blessings flow,—we draw nigh to Thee this morning in the attitude of supplication, asking Thee to bestow upon us thy rich and precious blessings. Give us Thy divine presence in this gathering to-day, that we may feel we have been face to face with God. Grant that Jesus, Thy divine Son, may stand among us, and may break to us the Bread of Life, that none may be turned away empty and an hungered. Breathe on us the Holy Ghost, that He may lead us past the seen and temporal things into the midst of the unseen and eternal things.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us now,—to consecrate this service ; to make this time of worship a hallowed hour ; to make us breathe the atmosphere of Heaven as we bow before Thee on the earth.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, the Father, Whose might and whose majesty are over all Thy works,—grant that we, Thy children, when we seek Thy face this day, may be made to feel that we are the

children of God; and that here, in our Father's House, with the world and all its restlessness shut out, we may indeed see our Father's face, and feel the warmth of His presence, and know that He is with us, as we tarry in His Temple.

O God, the Son, Whose love and sacrifice are ever with us, the object of our worship, the burden of our preaching, the theme of our songs;—wilt Thou speak to us this morning, and so bring us into fellowship with Thee, that all our evil, in thought, and word, and deed, shall depart from us, and there shall be given unto us that purity of heart, which will enable us to see God.

O God, the Holy Ghost, Who only can touch our tongues that we may speak, and our hearts that we may glow and burn with life; do Thou breathe upon us all this morning, and so inspire us, that this service shall be instinct with the presence of God from start to close; and that men and women may be won to put a larger trust in God;—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, the Father, Who art acquainted with all the needs and wants of these, Thy children, before Thee,—satisfy their wants, we pray Thee, and supply all their needs according to Thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

O God the Son, Who knowest the weakness of our flesh, and the frailty of our frame,—come alongside of each of us to-day, that we, like Thine Apostle of old, may be constrained to say, "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me".

O God, the Holy Ghost, Whose presence alone can make a service into a fellowship, and a common diet of worship into a feast of love,—come and inspire us, that we may get away from all restraints and limitations, and may be able to worship Thee who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, Who callest to the dawn, and chasest with Thy light the darkness from the earth,—hear us, we pray Thee, when we ask that Thy light will be about us to-day, and that the darkness of sin and doubt and distrust may be swept from our minds, as we wait in Thy presence.

Sun of Righteousness, Who dost arise with healing in Thy wings,—arise and shine on Thy waiting folk this morning, we beseech Thee. Open our eyes that Thy blessed light may flood our vision, and make us see God. Open our hearts that Thy glorious sunshine may flood our darkness and transfigure our souls.

Spirit of God, Who of Thy sweet compassion, dost love the souls of men, win us away this morning we pray Thee, from all earthly and material considerations, and for a little bring us into the secret place of the Most High, and under the Shadow of the Almighty.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God the Father, to Whom all hearts are known, and who understandest the needs of our hearts better than we can tell them unto Thee,—let our needs be unspoken prayers for Thy divine assistance, and answer them above our asking,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God the Son, to Whom all hearts are known, and Who knowest the sinfulness and the deceitfulness of the heart,—forgive our sins, we pray Thee, and cleanse our hearts, that, being pure in thought and desire, we may see God,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God the Holy Ghost, to Whom all hearts are known,—who art acquainted with their sorrows and their problems, their pain and their tears,—draw nigh in comfort to all sad hearts, and speak to them a message of consolation and of hope,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE "SECOND" PRAYER

GENERAL

I

O GOD, Who art a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable in thy being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth,—bring us, we pray Thee, into the atmosphere of these spiritual things, that for a little time to-day we may turn our backs on the world and all its eager striving, and may breathe the pure air of fellowship with God, and the clean atmosphere of that righteousness, justice, goodness and truth, which alone give value to life, and power to the heart, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, hear us this morning, we pray Thee, as we ask that our vision may be cleansed, and our eyes may be turned away from beholding vanity. For all the evil that is in our lives, we make confession this morning, and we ask forgiveness. Reckon not against us, O Lord, we plead, the sins of the past week, its failures, and its falls; its selfishness and its shame. For we bring it all to the fountain which Thou hast opened for sin and for uncleanness, even the fountain of the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, who art faithful in thy promises, and whose promises towards us are full of kindness and of love; help us to enter into the spirit of these promises to-day, as we bespeak them on behalf of this waiting congregation of thy people.

For the poor we bespeak the promise of those heavenly

riches which are above all earthly treasure, and which no earthly loss or gain can ever take away.

For the lonely we would bespeak the promise of that constant companionship from which neither life, nor death, nor any other creature can ever separate us.

For the sorrowing we would bespeak the promise of that comfort, which the world cannot give, and which, thank God, the world cannot take away.

And for the wearied body, the tired spirit, we would bespeak the rest which Jesus promised to those who take his yoke upon them, and seek to learn his spirit.

O God, Who art the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever,—the God in Whom our fathers trusted, and in Whom they were not disappointed, hear us, their children, we pray Thee, as we claim our fathers' God for ours, and seek to renew our covenant with Him to-day.

As Thou didst guide them through the desert, so do Thou guide us on our pilgrim way.

As Thou didst prevent them with the blessings of thy goodness, so do Thou open up our way before us too.

As Thou didst feed them with manna on their journey, so do Thou feed us from the hidden supplies of thy grace, lest we, becoming faint on our way, should be weary, and should fail in our striving toward the goal of goodness and of God.

O God, Who art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, mercifully grant, we pray Thee, a spirit of repentance and of grace to all seeking souls this Sabbath morning, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Not only here, in this quiet Church, but throughout this city and this land; not only in this land, where the gospel has so long been preached, but in all other lands,—especially in those dark places where men and women missionaries are seeking to spread the light. Hasten the time when everywhere there shall be an hunger for the Word of God. Hasten the time when everywhere men and women shall run unto Thee, because of the Lord their God. Hasten the

time when no man shall need to say to his neighbour, "Know the Lord", for all shall know Thee, from the least to the greatest.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

2

O God, Who hast commanded us to pray,—hear us, we pray Thee, as we obey Thy command, and come before Thee in the attitude of prayer. Help us, as we pray on behalf of ourselves, that we may be strengthened with might by Thy Spirit in the inner man; that we may get past the seen and temporal into the presence of Him, Whom eye hath not seen, nor ear heard; that we may be able to realise that it is worth while to be on the side of goodness and of God, whether men call it the winning or the losing side; that we may realise that to win Christ, and be found in Him, is better than all riches, is better than all burnt sacrifice.

Hear us too, as we pray on behalf of others, that Thou wouldst minister unto them of Thy fulness and of Thy grace:

The weak of heart and will, that Thou wouldst teach them how to stand:

The unfortunate and the sad, that Thou wouldst fill their days with song:

The lonely and the aged, that Thou wouldst companion their solitude:

The young, the eager, the happy, that Thou wouldst transfigure their world, and make it noble:

The sinner and the careless, that Thou wouldst turn them to the Cross.

O God, Who hast commanded us to give thanks unto the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works unto the children of men,—accept our thanks, we pray Thee, for all that Thou hast done to sweeten and to sanctify our lives, and to make us feel that the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein.

We thank Thee for Thy goodness to us as a congregation of Thy Church :

For voices that cheered us in the silences :

For hands that taught us how to play the game :

For examples that challenged us towards the heights :

For every noble inspiration :

For all brave striving, and fighting against sin :

For all whose lives have helped us to live better :

For any who have been helped by our own life and example :

For any to whom our message has come with healing in its wings :

For any, who, through faith, have made sacrifice of self and of comfort, for the sake of others :

For our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself, that we might live ;—Who made Himself of no reputation, that we might attain to goodness and to glory :—Who took upon Himself the form of a servant, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

O God, Who hast commanded us to repent, and to come to Thee ;—hear us, as we bow before Thee in humility and penitence ; and when Thou hearest, do Thou forgive, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

If we have done the things which we ought not to have done :

If we have left undone, the things which we ought to have performed :

If we have turned our eyes towards the lusts of the flesh and the pride of life :

If we have not turned away our eyes from beholding vanity :

If we have put out our hands to unholy and deceitful things :

If we have withheld our hands from helping those who needed our assistance :

If our lips have spoken unkind and cruel things, or deceitful and false words :

If our lips have been silent, when we might have helped with our testimony :

If our feet have been slow to run in the straight and narrow way :

If our feet have been swift to run in paths that were forbidden :—

Then hear, we beseech Thee, from heaven, Thy dwelling place, the cry of Thy penitent children, and when Thou hearest, forgive,

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

3

For thy name's sake, O Lord, lead us, and guide us ; for Thou knowest the way that we take ; and only Thou canst lead us past the snares and pitfalls of life, past the alluring and enticing voices ; past the pleasures and the pain of sin ; and canst lead us at last to perfect manhood, and to the measure of the stature of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Guide us with Thine eye, as Thou hast promised to do. For Thou seest the path of our feet, and knowest how best we should go. Thou seest the dangers that beset us ; Thou knowest the turning and the winding of the way ; and Thou seest how our feet falter as we go. With Thy kind and careful eye wilt Thou overlook all the road ; and with the light of Thine eye wilt Thou cause us to see where to plant our feet, and how to follow Thee.

Wilt Thou lead us, as Thou hast promised, with the right hand of Thy righteousness ! For even where we see, our hearts are feeble, and our feet are frail ; and without Thy hand to lead us, we shall be afraid to venture. Help us to hold fast the hand of God ; and when we see in that hand the print of the nails, wilt Thou inspire us with the assurance that no man can ever pluck us out of the hands of God.

Wilt Thou lead us, as Thou hast promised, beside the still waters, and among the green pastures of life ! Thou

knowest, O Father, that we need such leading. We have been among the noise of strife and of confusion. We have lived among excitement and unrest. We have been among hardships and difficulties, and have sometimes found it impossible to obtain leave to toil. O bring us back to the pasture-lands, and to the still waters, and restore to the world a season of prosperity and of quiet peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Wilt Thou lead us to the fountain that is opened for sin and for uncleanness through the blood of the Cross. We have heard of men and women who are finding their way to that fountain of blessing. We have rejoiced in the sound of the mercy drops that have been falling here and there throughout the country. But we would pray for showers of blessing,—would pray that the Spirit of God might not be hindered among us,—that we might be made willing to bring all the tithes into the store-house, that Thou mayest be able to pour out such a blessing as there will not be room enough to receive.

O God, Who hast promised to guide us continually while we live, and afterwards receive us into glory,—we thank Thee for the assurance of immortality and of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. And we would ask Thee so to help us to live, with sin confessed, and with sin forgiven ; with the peace of God within our soul, and the hand of God about our hand, that we shall be ever ready to enter Thy more immediate presence, and to enjoy that fellowship, which we call Eternal Life,

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

4

O Lord, our God, Who hast spoken unto us, in order that we might have Thy joy fulfilled in ourselves,—wilt Thou teach us the secret of that joy of the Lord, which is our strength ; wilt Thou repeat unto our hearts Thine own message of gladness, that we may shine with transfigured

faces, and that men and women may take note of us that we have been with Jesus.

We have need of that gladsome spirit in our faith. We have not shewn the joy of salvation in our lives, as we might. Men and women have not thought of Thee with a gladsome mind, because of what we have said or done. Help us to have Thy joy written in our very faces, that we may speak for our Master by our very presence among men.

Give us the joy of forgiveness! Help us to realise that the burden of our sin is fallen from us; that there is no condemnation of our hearts before Thee; and that washed, and redeemed, and saved, we have good cause to feel like singing all the time, and to know that we have been anointed with the oil of joy above our fellows, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Give us the joy of obedience! We have been unhappy, because we were as a house divided against itself. We know in our hearts that we have been disobedient to Thee,—to our highest instincts,—to our own holy ideals. And our hearts cry out against us, and we are unhappy because of our divided hearts. O give us this morning to make entire surrender to Thee. Help us to put our Master's words, "Not my will, but Thine be done", over every act and experience of life. Help us to fall into line with that will of Thine, whatever it may be for us; to follow Thy divine hand, wherever it may point; to obey Thy divine voice, no matter what it may command. Help us to obey; and in our obedience we shall find true joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Give us the joy of service! Help us to live for Thee, and give us to see the work of the Lord prospering in our hands. Our hearts are often weary to see Thee set Thy seal upon our labours, and to hear men and women making confession of Christ. Use us, O Christ, for Thy sacred cause, that we may experience the joy of the reapers, who return,

bearing precious sheaves with them. Help us to bring gladness to other lives, and we shall rejoice. Help us to bring souls to the Cross ; and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in our hand.

Bless all the agencies of service in this Church, we pray. Bless the Congregation ; the Sabbath Schools ; the Classes and Meetings, especially those for the young. Baptize every worker with Thy Holy Spirit, that every one may feel something of the breath of God upon their labours. Walk with us into every service ; into every classroom,—that we may feel that the work is not ours, but Thine ; that the responsibility is not ours, but Thine ; that the results are not ours, but Thine. We acknowledge ourselves to be unable to do anything without Thee. Come, O Christ, that Thy work may be done.

" Our Father, which art in heaven " . . . etc. Amen.

5

O God, Who hast given us life and opportunity ; Who hast put us in this world in order that from its daily demands, its struggles, its difficulties, its joys, its sorrows and its toil, we may make and mould our characters into the image of the Perfect Man ;—wilt Thou help us, we pray Thee, so to take Thee with us into all life's environment ; so to listen to Thy voice in the midst of all its appeals ; so to submit to Thee in the hours of its temptations ; and so to lean upon Thee in the midst of sorrow, of toil and of fear, that everything we do and say will help to bring us toward the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Forgive us, O Father, that so often we have missed our opportunities, and failed to take advantage of the ways of access to the Highest. Forgive us, if, when the way was opened to the heart of the Eternal, we followed our own foolish ways into the wilderness of sin and shame.

Forgive us, if, when we were tempted, we failed to commit our way to Thee. We might have stood firm on the Rock, and gained something of its strength ; but instead, we have flirted with follies, and dallied with passion, and have become weak as water.

Forgive us, if, in the hours of sorrow and pain, and loss and bereavement, we have failed to take hold on Thy divine strength. We might have been purified in the furnace of affliction ; but rather, we have been scorched and hurt by its fires. We might have been sweetened by its pathos, but rather have been embittered by its pain. We should have become like unto the Man of Sorrows through the ministry of sorrow ; but rather we have become hardened because we turned away from His pierced Hands.

Forgive us, if, through our toil, we have not drawn nearer to the Carpenter of Nazareth. We should have been drawn by our labour into closer touch with Him ; but we have rather allowed Him to drop from our thoughts, and have thought only on our own selfish ways and means. And we have not allowed the Master's toil to sweeten and to sanctify our labour.

We thank Thee for all those, who through good and upright character, through nobility of life and action, have impressed their fellows with the worth of goodness. O wilt Thou help us, so to open our lives to all the genial influences of heaven, that they shall bear on them the marks of the Lord Jesus, and shall radiate among our fellows His gracious spirit, and his strong, and glorious, and triumphant life.

O may we never, by thought, or word, or deed, hurt any soul for whom Christ died, or injure any soul in their outlook on the world, or in their trust in God. Help us to live so straight, so true to our ideals, that men may see the Christ in us, and may by us be led to a deeper trust in Him.

Remember all for whom we ought to pray. Our country in these days of testing and of uncertainty. Bring her purification and prosperity from the testing time. Our King and Queen. Be with them in their journeying, and establish our beloved Monarch in health and strength. Our Premier, and all who are associated with him in legislating for the country. Give them that spirit of wisdom which is from above, and which cometh from God Himself.

Remember all who have recently passed through sorrow and bereavement. It is a way that Thou Thyself hast trodden. Lead the mourners with Thy gracious hand. How can we thank Thee for a resurrection gospel! How can we thank Thee for the blessed hope of Immortality, and of Eternal Life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord!

These prayers we present unto Thee in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord; who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say, "Our Father," etc. . . . Amen.

6

O God, Who hast commanded thy children to pray without ceasing, wilt Thou so enable us to surrender our lives, and so to make over our wills to Thee, that our whole life shall be one uninterrupted "Amen" to the will of God concerning us; so that in all our work and in all our actions we may radiate the atmosphere of prayer; so that even our needs,—the hungers and desires of our lives, will be unspoken prayers, ascending constantly to Thy throne, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who hast assured us that the Spirit of God helpeth our intercessions,—send the Holy Spirit to breathe into our thoughts, that we may be able to intercede before Thee on behalf of our fellow-men, and to bring them under Thy kind care and protection.

Remember the young, who, with strong and eager feet, are setting forth upon the Pilgrim Way :

Remember the old, who, with shortened steps and weary feet, are nearing the end of the journey :

Remember the middle-aged, and keep them from the ravages of "the destruction that wasteth at noonday" :

Bless those who are happy, by giving them a deeper joy :

Bless those who are sad, by giving them the ministry of comfort :

Bless those who are careless, by turning their thoughts in upon themselves :

Bless those who know Thee not, by giving them a sight of Jesus Christ :

Give unto our King the blessings of the King of Kings :

Give unto His Ministers the ministry of wisdom and of justice :

Give unto all Missionaries a mission of light and of salvation :

Give unto all preachers a message of power and of faith.

It is Thine assurance to us, that if we, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto our children, much more will God give the best gift unto those who ask.

It is Thine own promise, "Ask, and ye shall receive ; seek and ye shall find ; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." For every one that asketh receiveth ; and he that seeketh, findeth ; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened."

Our Father, we would deliberately come to Thee this morning, asking that Thou wouldest fill us with the Holy Ghost ; seeking that we may really find Thee ; knocking, that the door of Thy heart may be swung wide open to us all ; and that every one of us may enter, and make our abode with Thee.

For all our petitions we present unto Thee, not in our own name, but in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord; who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—

"Our Father, which art in heaven. . . ." Amen.

7

O Lord, our God, Who hast called us to a life of blessedness and service;—grant that we, who know Thy name, and are trusting in Thy mercy, may enter into the blessedness of those who seek to reproduce in their own lives the life and example of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that as we wait at Thy feet, and as we worship in Thy Temple, there may be given unto us the courage to follow our Master toward His ideal; and to associate Him with all the circumstances of our daily walk and conversation.

If the world has taken too strong a hold upon us, so that we do not see the blessedness of the poor in spirit, of the humble and meek, of the peacemaker, of the pure in heart,—do Thou so bring us into living personal touch with Thyself, that the world shall lose its hold upon our lives, and that we shall begin anew to serve Thee and follow Thee only, whithersoever Thou shalt lead us. We know that the world can never satisfy us, for Thou hast put eternity in our hearts, and none but the Eternal God can satisfy our souls. O God, who art stronger than the world, and whose service is infinitely better than the service of the world, draw nigh to us Thyself, and bind us to Thyself with the cords of love that can never be broken.

If the fear of man has been a snare to us, so that we have not dared to turn our backs upon evil examples, or to shun the things that are popular and easy;—do Thou come to us, we pray Thee; do Thou so fill our spirits that we shall feel that one with Thee is more than all that are against us; do Thou so shew us the vision of the great cloud of witnesses that compass us about, that we shall feel assured that we are never alone, and that our feeble strength is girded with

the might of God. Come, and strengthen us with might by Thy Spirit in the inner man, that we may be able to stand, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If the love of self has blinded us to the glory of the Cross and the beauty of holiness,—help us to bring self to the altar of surrender, and to lay it on the altar before Thee,—holy, acceptable, a reasonable sacrifice unto Thee. Help us to enter into the spirit and consecration of Thy servant, who could cry, " I am crucified with Christ ; nevertheless I live ; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me ". Help us so to fall in love with Jesus, that self shall sink out of sight altogether, and our one aim and ambition in life shall be to serve Thee, —through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If sin in thought, or word, or deed, has kept us out of touch with Thee, or has lowered the value of our life and work ; do Thou be pleased, O Lord, to take away our sin, and to pardon it through the blood of the Cross ; and help us to turn our backs upon everything that would grieve Thee,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Into Thy hands, O Lord, we would commit all those for whom we ought to pray—

All saddened homes, and empty hearts :

All those who face some heavy Cross,—some sore crisis in their lives :

All happy hearts and homes, which Thou hast crowned with love :

All those who are working in Thy service in this City, in this land :

Very specially our Ministers and Missionaries in lonely places :

The King upon the Throne, and all his royal household :

The Premier of this Country, and all who are associated with him in its legislation :

Those who, by land or sea, have to face dangers, of which we know nothing.

These, our prayers, we present unto Thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord ; who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say, " Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

8

O God, our Father,—when we come to the Sabbath day and to the Sabbath service, we turn and look back upon the life which we have lived during the week which is past. And as we do so, we see again our meanness and our sin,—our selfishness and our indifference,—our coldness and our want of heart. And we feel within ourselves that the only thing for us to do, is to seek Thy presence with words of confession upon our lips, and feelings of penitence within our hearts ; and, pleading only the merits of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, to ask forgiveness for every offence, through the blood of His dear Cross.

If Thou, Lord, wert swift to mark iniquity,—O Lord, who should dare to stand before Thee ! The unholy look, the unchaste thought, the unclean imagination, the selfish desire, the lazy, listless, indifferent attitude, should then all rise in condemnation against us, and should make us black and filthy in Thy Holy presence. But our assurance is that there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. And therefore would we bring here and now, the burden of all our guilt and our sin, and would lay it down at Jesus' feet, praying, that Thou, who hast seen all and known all, wilt also forgive all, through the blood of Jesus Christ, that cleanseth from all sin.

As on this Sabbath day, we look back across the week that is past, we are very sensible of the goodness and the mercy that have followed us during its waking and its sleeping hours. And in all humility we would ask Thee now, O God, that Thou wouldst accept our thanksgiving for all Thy goodness, and our gratitude for all Thy tender mercies.

"Many, O Lord, are Thy wonderful works, which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts which are to usward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee; if we would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." Thou makest the outgoings of the morning to rejoice; the incomings of the evening are full of the tale of Thy goodness. Day unto day uttereth speech of Thy love; and night unto night sheweth knowledge of Thy kindness.

So would we call upon our heart and all that is within us to sing aloud Thy praise, and bless Thy Holy Name for all that Thou hast done, and for all that Thou continuest to do for us, Thy servants, all unworthy and unclean as we are.

And when we look back across the week that is past, we remember many who have not found so much joy as we have amid the golden moments. We pray for all to whom the new days brought no new joy, and we ask that the Lord may be their portion in their sorrow. For those who have had no holiday by the beautiful sea, but who must live on in crowded homes, and work in busy streets, and see but little of the glory and the beauty that lies about us. For those to whom the Sabbath Day brings no message,—who never bestir themselves to seek God, and to draw nigh where men assemble for prayer and praise. For the wanderers by sea and land, who sometimes feel their loneliness. We bring them all to Thee, and pray Thee to turn their thoughts to God.

We pray for all Doctors and Nurses, who are following the Good Physician in His ministry of healing. Give to them His gracious touch among bruised and beaten humanity. For all who teach in Day Schools and in Sabbath Schools, that they may be made like unto the Wise Teacher, whose words were full of inspiration and encouragement.

For all Ministers and Preachers, who to-day shall stand between the people and God. May their lives not hinder

men from coming but rather draw them to the Master's presence.

For Missionaries, and those who work among the heathen in lonely parts of the world, and amid discouraging circumstances,—that they may be cheered by seeing "multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of Decision".

For our King and all his royal household, whom we hold in our affectionate regard;—that the Throne may be established by justice and righteousness, and our Monarch upborne by the prayers of his people.

For Thy servant the Premier of the nation, and all who are associated with him in the Legislature;—that Thy presence may inform all their works, Thy Spirit breathe in all their deliberations, and Thy wise plans and purposes be realised in all that they are doing.

Spirit of God, breathe upon our Nation, and bring to us days of lasting peace and of prosperity,—days when Thy Kingdom shall come, and Thy will be done in our midst, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

These our prayers we present unto Thee in the name of Jesus, who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

9

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, through the Eternal Spirit, didst offer Thyself without spot unto God, that Thou mightest purge our Consciences from dead works to serve the living God,—wilt Thou so be with us this morning, and so speak to us, and deal with us, that every soul within the Church shall be brought to share the blessings that have come to us through the Cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for the reconciliation of the Cross! Thou hast reconciled us unto God by the Cross, "having slain the enmity thereby". And for this new friendship with God, which the Cross has brought us; for the consciousness that we are no longer enemies,—not even strangers and aliens,—but rather fellow-citizens and of the household of God, we give Thee thanks to-day, through the Cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for the peace which Thou hast brought us through the blood of the Cross. For hearts that are at leisure from themselves; for Consciences that are not accusing voices; for lives from which the consciousness of distrust and unrest have departed. O hasten the time, we pray Thee, when from east to west, and from north to south, the spirit of that peace shall flow,—when into our industrial circles, it shall come to break the barriers of suspicion and distrust; when it shall come, too, into our international affairs, and bring to the world that peace from which we have long been strangers, and for which a weary world is waiting.

We thank Thee for the brotherhood of the Cross. We know that to-day in all lands, mention is being made of the Cross of Jesus Christ, and men and women of all nations are sitting down under the shadow of Calvary. Hasten the time, we pray Thee, when the gospel shall be preached unto all nations, and when, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, Thy name shall be great among the Gentiles, and nations that knew not Thee, shall run unto Thee, and find peace through the blood of the Cross.

We thank Thee for all those, who, through faith, have been able to glory in the Cross of Jesus Christ, their Lord.

For the early Apostles, who went about everywhere preaching the gospel of forgiveness through the Cross of Christ:

For men and women who are doing the same to-day;

for those in the slums, who are living out the brotherhood of the Cross among their fellow men; and who, through the Salvation Army or the Mission Meeting, are speaking the message of life through the Cross of Jesus Christ.

For leaders of thought in this and other lands, who have lent their influence on the side of the Cross,—who have felt its power of cleansing in their own lives, and who are eager to tell it abroad to men and women everywhere through pulpit, and book, and newspaper.

We present all our prayers and petitions unto Thee in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—"Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

10

O God, our Father, Who hast filled Thy Holy Book with revelations of Thy love and kindness toward us,—with exceeding great and precious promises, whereby our souls are satisfied, and our hearts encouraged; with commands and exhortations and messages of comfort, whereby we are cheered and comforted in our distress;—hear us, we beseech Thee, as with gladdened hearts and uplifted spirits we come before Thee to-day, and in all humility, yet in all gratitude, thank Thee for Thy grace and favour toward us, and for Thy wonderful works toward the children of men.

We thank Thee, that Thou, Who, as Pillar of Cloud and as Pillar of Fire, didst go before Thy people through the wilderness, dost with the preventing mercies of Thy goodness still go before Thy people to-day through each perplexing path of life; keeping their feet, lest they should slip and fall upon the way; holding their hand lest they should wander from the path; lifting their eyes to the hills from whence cometh their help; and inspiring them to press toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee, that Thou, Who didst follow the Psalmist with goodness and mercy all the days of his life, art still following Thy servants with that same goodness and mercy, —establishing their goings and putting new songs in their mouths. How can we fully thank Thee for all these following mercies,—for the love of wife and child: for the laughter of little children: for the fellowship of kindred hearts: for the thousand mercies that have gone to make earth crammed with heaven, and to set every common bush "afire with God".

We thank Thee that preventing mercies and following mercies have met and touched each other in the Cross of Jesus Christ. And there our sins, which were open beforehand, going on to judgment, have already been judged: and there our sins which "followed after", dogging our footsteps, and haunting our memories, have been all forgiven and washed away through the Cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We make confession of all our sins before Thee now. We tell them over to Thee in the silence of our hearts within this Holy House. We would keep nothing back from Thee; for we know that Thy "kind and careful eye can scan the very wounds that shame would hide". And, laying our lives open before Thee, we would ask for the mercy and the forgiveness that are promised to those who make confession of their sins, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Whose mercy and kindness are extended to all Thy people,—bless, we pray Thee, all who are exercised with sorrow or heaviness,—all who are burdened, or oppressed,—all who are anxious about their business, about their friends, about their families. Visit all such with Thy compassion, and hide them very near to the heart of the Eternal,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

"Our Father, which art in Heaven," etc. Amen.

II

O God, the light of those that seek Thee; the joy of those that find Thee, and the peace of those that put their trust in Thee,—hear us, we beseech Thee, as we pray that that light, that joy and that peace may be our living experience to-day; that behind us for a little while all life's buying and selling, its bustle and its fever and its unrest may be put; and that we may really be in the house of God and at the gate of Heaven to-day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Give us of thy light, we pray, that we may see Thee. So many things there are that tend to darken our vision. Our sins come between us and the vision of God. We lose sight of Thee in the darkness of evil and of distrust. O Light of the world, without Whom we are blind and poor, shine on us now, we pray Thee, and gladden our hearts by the light of Thy reconciled countenance, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Give us of Thy joy, we pray Thee,—the joy of knowing and of loving Thee. Thy coming brings gladness with it; in Thy presence even here, there is fulness of joy. We have our joys away from Thee; we have sought a happiness that was never of Thy giving. And that joy and that happiness have failed us. O God, come with Thy divine gladness to our souls, that even as we sit before Thee, we may be caught up on eagle wings, and have a foretaste of Heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Give us of thy peace, we pray Thee,—the peace the world can never give, the peace it cannot take away. We have made our lives feverish and anxious by our wants. We have taken too much thought for the morrow, for its eating and its drinking, for its getting and its spending. Here and now would we lay aside the load of our earthly worries; we would roll the burden, the responsibility, the care of it all upon Thee; and we would crave Thy peace, "as one

whom a mother comforteth", through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Son of Man, Who art still able to heal upon the Sabbath Day;—we beseech Thee to heal all our diseases and to make us clean and strong this Sabbath morning, as we wait upon Thee. Touch the eyes that are holden, that they may look upon Thy face. Touch the ears of the deaf, that they may be unstopped, and may hear the message of Thy love and grace. Unloose the tongues of the dumb, that they may join to sing Thy praise. Where any souls are leprous,—sick of the palsy of sin and of unrighteousness,—stoop down, and touch them with Thy cooling hand, and say, "I will; be thou clean". And where any are possessed by the devils of lust and of desire, speak to them Thy strong and powerful word, and compel the Devil to come out of them, that they may sing thy praise,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, from Whom all good and precious gifts come down,—we thank Thee for all that makes life dear,—"for those whose friendship and affection are a daily benediction; for the little children, whose innocent ways and speech are as the fragrance of Heaven in our homes",—for those whose daily example challenges all that is noblest and best in us; for those whose prayers do rise continually before Thee on our behalf. Make us worthier of our noble friendships; make us more fit to train and to teach the little children of our homes; make us more receptive of every good and noble influence that is exerted upon us, through earthly fellowship, and through the fellowship of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Remember our country, the King and Queen, and the Prince of Wales. Have mercy upon the nation during these times of unrest and disquiet. Give sane and wise deliberations and decisions in the crises of Capital and Labour. Tide the nation in safety over dangerous times and grant that wise counsels may prevail, and that the country may be blest by what is best and highest.

Remember the whole earth in Thy mercy. It is Thy footstool, and Thou knowest it altogether. From east to west, from north to south, do Thou bless the men and women who are seeking to spread Thy kingdom. Visit them in their loneliness with refreshing showers of grace and blessing; and hasten the time when all men shall know Thee from the least to the greatest.

These our prayers we present unto Thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in Whose prevailing name and words we further pray,—"Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

12

O God, Who art the author and the giver of life;—we thank Thee for the gift which Thou hast given; and we pray that Thou wilt come to us with life more abundant, filling us with a living sense of God's presence and His love.

We pray Thee to remove from us anything that would hinder the inflowing of the divine life into ours. If we have allowed anything to choke the channels of connection between ourselves and Thee, we ask Thee to give us sincerity enough, and manliness enough to put it away from us, and to open our hearts to the inflowing and the inbreathing of the divine life.

If any evil habit is dominating our lives, and holding us enslaved and fettered by its baneful powers,—we pray Thee, O God, to give us grace, here and now, to make surrender of it, that there may be no barrier between Thy heart and ours,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If any foolish or unholy love has dulled our hearts to the love of God, and made us insensible to His holy advances and to His gracious sacrifice,—help us, we pray Thee, to lay our heart and all its love upon the altar of consecration,

that every energy within us may be brought into subjection, aye, even into captivity to the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If the world and the things of the world have allured us by their glance and their glitter, or have made the things that are eternal to abide unseen and unrecognised in our experience,—do Thou give us such a glimpse of the real things, that all less worthy things and visions will be removed from us, and that we shall look upon those things which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If our secret sin has eaten into our hearts like a canker, robbing us of all our tender aspirations, and belittling all our high ideals, and making us very sensible of our kinships with the beasts that perish, O help us, here and now, to be honest with ourselves, to be straightforward with Thee, and to confess our sins before Thee, as Thou wilt give us light and understanding so to do.

O God of Life, let nothing that is in us hinder the inflowing of Thy life into ours. We cannot live without Thee. We have known something of that "life more abundant" which Thou dost impart; and we know that without Thee, all the finest things that earth can give, are less than nothing and vanity.

Hear us, as we continue our prayer in the words of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—"Our Father, which art in heaven," etc.

Amen.

13

O God, the refuge of all comfortless creatures, the joy of all who seek Thee, and the home of all who find Thee,—into Thy most gracious care we would commit this day all sorrowing and saddened hearts, all lonely and burdened

spirits, in the blessed assurance that Thou wilt not leave them alone in their sorrow, but, as Thou didst come to mourners in Bethany, so wilt Thou draw nigh to all mourners to-day, and speak to them of the comfort of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who dost order our lives as Thou knowest to be best for us, weaving its web with mercy as well as with judgment,—telling its story with sorrow as well as with song ;—help us, we pray Thee, to draw nigh to Thee in all life's varied experiences,—to trace Thy hand among the piercing thorns, as surely as among the painted flowers,—to see the smiling of Thy face among the frowning clouds, as well as amid the brilliant sunshine,—to hear the accents of Thy voice, not only in the times of silence and of stillness, but also in the crowded hours of life, amid the noise of the street and the mill, amid the traffic of the market and the store.

O Christ, Who wert a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief, and Who dost exercise towards us all a ministry of comfort, that we, in turn may comfort those who are in trouble with that comfort wherewith we ourselves were comforted of God,—help us to become comforters of those who are in sorrow ; help us to have a message of cheer for those who are in distress ; give us a note of inspiration for those who are faint and weary on the way. Thou, who hast entrusted to us the ministry of consolation,—help us to pass on the consolations of Thy Word to those who need them. Thou, whose heart is brimful of compassion for all Thy suffering creatures,—help us everywhere to be pitiful and to be kind, that men and women may hear in our speech the accents of Thy tones, and may learn the secret of perfect confidence in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who knowest all the history of every soul before Thee,—who knowest the homes from which we come ; the work we do and the lives we influence ; who knowest the worries of our life, its irritations, its pleasures, its enjoy-

ments,—hear us to-day, as we bring it all before Thee, and lay it all upon Thine altar, that it may be dedicated to Thy service. We are sorry that we do so little for Thy cause; we are ashamed that we so often betray our trust, and are false to our ideals. But we bring our lives to Thee. We ask Thee to receive them. Forgive, where we have sinned; undertake for us where we have failed; supplement our weak efforts, where we have come short; put right what we have done wrong; and, where we have strayed away, bring us back to heaven and God.

We renew our covenant: we surrender our souls: we dedicate our wills to Thee. Accept them, Lord, through Jesus Christ, in whose great name we further pray,—"Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

14

O God, Whose kind and gracious messages are ever fitted to the needs and wants of those who receive them,—we bring Thy people before Thee this morning, and ask that every one of them may be satisfied out of Thy fulness and out of the riches of Thy glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

There are some who are surrounded by darkness. Nay, we are all as blind men, groping for the way amid the mysterious darkness that surrounds our paths. We do not know what to make of things. We cannot see into the mysteries about us. The drift of circumstances has driven some away from Thee, instead of bringing them into the security of Thy wings. O grant that Thy kind message may bring such back to Thy side to-day; so that the people which sat in darkness, may see a great light; so that to them the Sun of Righteousness may arise with healing in his wings.

And some have lost themselves in the mazes of doubt, and do not see their way to safety. They have thought,

nay prayed, that God would bring peace and prosperity to the world, and quietness to the spirit of man. And instead of peace, we have red and cruel war ; and instead of good will we have bitterness and hate. O help us to be still and know that Thou art God ; that Thou still art working for Thy people, even though the earth be removed, and the mountains carried into the midst of the sea.

And some are depressed and sad by reason of the cloud and the storm. We have looked on life's mournful things, and have failed to see the face of God. We have looked at the cloud, and have failed to trace the bow in the cloud. We have seen the thicket, but have not caught sight of the ram of sacrifice.

O light of the world ! shine in to the hearts of men, and dispel their darkness. O Comforter of the world ! lay healing hands upon our pain. O Redeemer of the world ! ransom us from the power of sin and of evil, and deliver us from every evil bondage.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,— " Our Father," etc. Amen.

15

O God, our Father ; we thank Thee for the revelation of fatherhood, which Thou hast given us ; and for all the peace and blessing which it brings to our hearts.

We thank Thee that in life's loneliest hours, we can never be alone ; for the Father is with us.

We thank Thee that in life's saddest hours, we can never be fatherless children, since Thy love is about us as an atmosphere.

We thank Thee that, if friends on earth should fail us and forsake us, we still have a Father in heaven, who will never fail us. " When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up."

We thank Thee, that in the hour when we feel poor and mean, it comes back to us with infinite satisfaction, that our Father is rich and generous, and able to supply all our need according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, Who, for the joy that was set before Thee, endured the Cross on our behalf, and bore our sins upon Thine own heart and head ;—blot out, we pray Thee all our sins. We make confession of them all, and leave ourselves to Thee in faith that Thou wilt forgive and forget, and wilt cast all behind Thy back.

We would stand at the Cross this morning ; we would see Thy wounded head, and hands, and side, from which flowed the cleansing tide ; and there we would see all our sins washed away, and no condemnation awaiting us in the presence of God.

Help us, O Christ, to live in the spirit of Thy sacrifice. Keep us near the Cross, that we may learn to hate our sins, and to become transfigured into the image of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Spirit of God, the Comforter,—draw near to all men and women of sorrowful spirit to-day. We commend to Thy care and blessing all sons and daughters of sorrow ;—all who have had to eat the bread of tears in heaviness of heart and bitterness of spirit. Comfort them, as Thou alone canst do, O Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Spirit of God, who hast come to guide us into all truth ;—wilt Thou so breathe on us this morning, as we wait before Thee, that the truth, as it is in Christ Jesus, may sink deep into our hearts, and may transform our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Spirit of God, Who alone canst give the atmosphere which makes our preaching real, breathe on us now, that all coldness and all formality may disappear from this service, and all who wait upon Thee here, may be brought into Thy near presence.

We ask it all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—" Our Father," etc. Amen.

16

O Christ, Who art the Truth,—wilt Thou grant unto us the spirit of truth and of sincerity in all we say and do, that from our lives all hypocrisy and sham may depart, and that men may see our Master's Spirit in us.

Give us sincerity in our thanksgiving. We are deeply grateful to Thee for all that Thou hast done for us. For the mercies that have spared us to see the light of the new day, in health and strength : for the hand of God, bounteous and generous, extended toward us with food and raiment ; for the heart of love that has surrounded us with friends and neighbours, and that has given us so much of the sunshine of human fellowship to enjoy.

For these and other blessings, known or unknown, remembered, or forgotten, we give Thee our sincere thanks, O God, with the prayer that Thou wilt make us worthy to be the recipients of Thy bountiful dealings.

Give us sincerity in our confession. When we look into our hearts and see the sin that is there,—when we behold our own unworthiness, our ingratitude, our meanness, our hypocrisy, our readiness to listen to the voice of the Tempter,—we are ashamed. We see ourselves as infinitely mean, and we know that it is only of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. Our own hearts condemn us ; and we know that God is greater than our hearts, and knoweth all things.

In deepest sincerity, and with shame and contrition, we would cry for that mercy of the Lord's, which endureth for ever ; we would ask for that forgiveness, which cometh from the heart of the Eternal ; we would pray for that

cleansing, which cometh through the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our sins are very real, O Lord. Make our confession as real as our sins, and our pardon will be fully assured.

Give us sincerity in our work. Help us to do our work as to the Lord, and not to man. Thou knowest how short a time we have to do our work, and how many temptations to neglect it. Help us to remember that through our work the world is made better. Help us to remember that through our common toil we are made to become workers together with God.

Save us from insincerity of every kind. Help us to live so that Thou wilt approve of our lives; so that, when our work is ended, we shall receive Thy commendation, "Well done, good and faithful servant. . . . Enter thou into the joy of Thy Lord."

"Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

17

O God, Whose love is infinite, and eternal, and unchangeable, extended alike to the sinner and to the saint, and outgoing in tenderness toward the Prodigal in the far country, as well as to the Elder Brother in the Father's House: help us to feel the security of Thy great love toward us; and in that security to lay open our lives before Thee, with all their burdens of gratitude or of sin,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

It is with the Prodigal's cry on our lips, that we take our places before Thy Mercy Seat,—"Father, we have sinned against Heaven and before Thee, and are no more worthy to be called Thy sons". O infinite love of God: forgiving love: atoning love: pardoning love: enfold Thy poor, erring children this morning; and as Thou dost listen to

their tale of sin, of meanness, of envy, of littleness, of unworthiness,—do Thou forgive us all, through Him who gave His life upon the Cross, that we might be free and uncondemned upon the earth. We take our places as prodigals before Thee; for we have broken away from Thee time and again. But it is as returning prodigals that we come: for we realise that all the splendour and the glory and the amusement of the far country are empty and hollow, when we have lost sight of our Father's face.

It is with the Father's welcome in our ears, that we draw nigh to Thee this morning, and put our lives into Thy hands,—"This, my son". For we thank Thee that, in spite of all our wandering and of all our sin, we are still Thy children, and our true place is in our Father's House. Help us to live as children,—to turn our backs upon the far country, with its empty pretence, its gilded show; and to turn our faces toward the sunlight of Thy presence. We need Thee, Father; we cannot live without Thee. And therefore we thank Thee that Thou still dost look upon us as Thy sons, with a right to share our Father's love, and to claim a place in our Father's heart.

It is with the elder brother's promise in our hearts that we draw nigh in hope to Thee,—"Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine". Help us to claim what is ours in virtue of our sonship; so that here, in this world, we may possess that "life more abundant", which Thou hast offered; and that, finally, we may attain to that "inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, that fadeth not away", which Thou hast reserved for those who love Thee.

We ask it in Jesus' Name, who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—"Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

FROM PASSAGE READ OR VERSE OF SCRIPTURE

PRAYER AFTER READING PSALM XX

"SOME trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the Name of the Lord, our God". Give us to recall that Holy Name of Thine, O God, and from it to draw our inspiration and our strength.

Help us to remember that that Name, that sacred Name by which we are called,—stands for all that is pure and holy and clean: and help us to live worthy of the Name of God.

Help us to remember the strength for which that Name stands,—a strength that is greater than our earthly weakness,—a strength that is stronger than our strongest sin,—a strength that is more powerful than any earthly habit. And as we remember that strength, help us to be more emboldened in our Master's service.

Help us to remember the riches for which that Name stands,—a riches that can supply all our need, and never be impoverished. Needy and poor, we place ourselves in Thy hands, and ask Thee to minister to us, according to Thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Help us to remember the infinite resources for which that Name stands,—resources that can never be exhausted, but which are ever at the disposal of those who trust that Name. Help us to draw out of these resources, that we may "have all and abound", and that our trust may be renewed in Him, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.

Help us to remember the pity, the compassion, the love for which that Name stands. We are too ready to forget. We allow our holy memories to pass from us, and the world is colder and harder in consequence. Come and help us to remember those gracious influences that gather around Thy Name; and by their presence in our lives may our world become transfigured.

We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

AFTER READING PS. XXIII

We thank Thee, O God our Father, that Thou art our Shepherd, and hast promised that we shall not want. And we are bold this morning to ask Thee to fulfil thy gracious promise in our experience, and to lead us, in this service, to the green pastures and the still waters of thy love. We need thy help very specially, for we realise that of our own selves we can do nothing. And in order that we may live up to the gracious heritage to which Thou hast called us, we ask Thee to lead us safely through the valleys, and across the hills of life, until Thou shalt bring us at the last to the safety of the fold. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We need these green pastures, for the things of the world cannot satisfy us. We have come to know that life is more than meat, and the body more than raiment. We have come to feel that not the material things can make us what we want to be, or bring us near the pattern of the perfect man. And we ask Thee to feed us with Thy pasture. Bring us into the Banqueting House, and with Thy gracious word, and with the word of Thy truth, do Thou feed our feeble souls that they may be abundantly satisfied.

We need those waters of stillness. For in the busy, bustling ways of life, its tumult and unrest, its noise and worry, we miss Thy gracious voice. We want to come into the quiet with God, so that we may hear His voice, and see

His face ; and that our longing souls may be filled by the message of His grace. " The waters of the earth have failed, and we are thirsty still " ! And to those living streams, those waters of stillness and of quiet, we would seek to come this morning, and would stoop down, and drink and live.

We need that restoration of soul which Thou, as Shepherd, hast promised to bring us. We need to be renewed, restored : for our souls are sick, and Thou art the Great Physician. We would tell Thee all about our ailing.—We are like the leper, loathsome with sin, and separate from Thee. We are palsy stricken, and do not go about Thy tasks. We are blind, and do not see the beauty of holiness. We are dumb, and do not open our mouths to testify to the goodness and love of the Father. We are deaf and pay no heed to the message of Thy Cross. O come to us to-day, and restore our souls. Come and touch us by Thy healing hand, and say to us, " I will ; be thou clean ". And bid the evil and the sin come out of us, that we may be sanctified and cleansed, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And what we ask for ourselves, we also ask for others. Remember all for whom we ought to pray—our beloved King and Queen and all their household ; our councillors and legislators, who need the heavenly wisdom ; our ministers and missionaries, who need the ministry of the Holy Ghost to inspire and to encourage them. The weary and the heavy laden : the sick and sorrowful ; the mourners and the dying. Waken the world with Thy blessed voice, O God, and summon men and women from North, South, East and West, who shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of God.

These our prayers we present in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who hath taught us, when we pray thus to say—" Our Father," etc. Amen.

PS. CXIX, 11

O God, our Father, we thank Thee for the many ways in which Thy Word has come to us, and in which we have heard that Word spoken.

We have heard it in our silence, and it has told us to be still and know that Thou art God.

We have heard it in our song; and it has filled our mouth with laughter and our heart with singing.

We have heard it in our prayers; and it has brought new strength into our hearts, and new purpose into all our endeavours.

We have heard it in the Holy Bible; and it has shamed the mean, the sensual, the selfish and unholy; and has constrained us to new consecration and holiness.

We have heard it in the voice of the preacher; and it has wakened responses in our souls, until the common Church became the House of God, where the angels of God ascended and descended upon the sons of men.

We have heard it in the voice of our own conscience, speaking its commands. "Thou shalt not!" in face of evil and unloveliness; and we know ourselves enriched when we obeyed, and infinitely poorer when we disobeyed its summons.

And now we pray Thee, that Thy Word may indeed become flesh, "and may walk out of this Church in the inner life of a consecrated man or woman."

It is to this end that all our teaching and our preaching is directed. It is for this purpose that we come into this House to listen to Thy Word. O speak it, Father, to every heart here, till we all feel constrained to make complete surrender, and to become wholly Thine.

Help us to put forth from us whatever would keep Thee from our hearts. We would open their secrets before Thee, that Thou mightest see, and know, and forgive. We would keep nothing back from Thee; for Thou knowest all,—the

lust, the passion, the meanness, the indifference, the heartlessness. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness ; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out our transgressions.

And when Thou dost put these things hence, come in and reign, we pray Thee.

Bless all who hunger and thirst after righteousness, and let them be satisfied with the goodness of Thy House.

Hasten the time when everywhere all sorts and conditions of men shall find their way to Jesus. We thank Thee that He is sufficient for all their needs. We thank Thee that He can fully satisfy them, in loneliness, in sorrow, in gladness, in joy.

We ask it in His Name, who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—" Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

ISAIAH XXXII, 2

" A man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest ; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

Blessed Man ! We do pray Thee that this gracious promise may be fulfilled in the experience of every storm-stead, of every tempest-tossed soul in Thy presence this morning. We know the terrible reality of the wind and the tempest in our life : the scorching heat and the barren land are very real to us all. Make real to us this day the sense of shadow, and shelter, and protection, and peace, we pray Thee,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

There are winds of doubt that have blown about our lives. They have swept us from our moorings, and at times we have lost sight of Thee. And, because we have known in our

experience the blessedness of Thy companionship, the earth seems empty without Thee, and our horizon is very dark.

O Blessed Man! who art an hiding place from the winds, help us all to run under cover to Thee, and once more, in spite of all the contradictions of fact and of fancy, to sit down under Thy shadow with great delight,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

There are tempests of passion that come sweeping over us. And they blight our aspirations; and they dull our powers of vision. And once more life is dull, and the heart is empty, because of those hungry passions that play havoc with our souls.

O Blessed Man! who art a covert from the tempest,—shelter us, we pray Thee from the angry storm of our own passions. Help us to steal nearer Thee,—so near that Thy shadow will be a covert for us. And as, in our nearness, we feel the throbbing of Thy heart, may it calm us in our passion, and put all evil thoughts and fancies in leash behind us,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

There are some to whom life is as a dry, parched land. They are without hope; their outlook is barren; their ambitions have failed; their aspirations have been blighted.

Pour out upon such the rivers of water of Thy promise, O God. Baptize them with the waters of hope and of joy. Breathe in on them a sense of Thy divine nearness, and all life shall be transfigured. Give them to draw water out of the wells of salvation, till their wilderness and their solitary place shall be glad; and their desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

And there are some to whom life is but a weary land. They have grown tired by reason of the way. They have grown weary, because of the heaviness of their work. The world is too big for them, too hard, too thankless for them. And men and women around them are so much concerned with their own affairs, that they seem to take no interest in them.

O Saviour Christ, Thou too art man! Thou too hast wearied, and been faint upon the way. Seek out, we pray Thee, every such soul in the Church this morning; and draw them into the shadow of Thy Presence. There, in the stillness, wilt Thou shelter and protect them! Give them to feel that they are resting under the shadow of the Almighty. And as they wait there, may new strength come in the stillness to every wistful heart.

We ask it all in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord:—who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—"Our Father," etc. Amen.

ISAIAH LVII, 15

O God, Who hast made our hearts, and formed them that they might be a dwelling place for Thee and for Thy glory; we thank Thee for the way in which our hearts have responded to Thy call; and for all the hunger and thirst that are in them after Thy righteousness and love. Thou hast made our hearts for Thyself, and we thank Thee that none but Christ can satisfy their longing and their hunger.

When Thou saidst unto us, "Seek ye my face!" our hearts said unto Thee, "Thy face, Lord, will we seek". For all the beauty and the wonder that are in the face of nature cannot satisfy us. We need sight of that perfect beauty which is in the face of God. Cleanse our hearts that they may be pure enough to look into Thy face to-day, that by Thy beauty we may be constrained to worship, and by Thy love we may be constrained to serve.

Where sin has dimmed the vision of Thy face, or hidden it from our eyes, wilt Thou bring us this morning to that fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness, and wilt Thou wash us that we may be pure. So, being pure, we shall see God; and seeing God, our souls shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy House, even of Thy Holy place.

Where the world with its garish day and its busy workers, with its manifold interests and its multitudinous voices, has crowded out the face of God from our longing eyes, do Thou shut the world out for a little time this morning ; do Thou set it aside with all its varying voices : and do Thou shut us in for a little while with God, that we may see again the face of our Father.

Where sorrow has dimmed our eyes with tears, so that it has been hard for us to see through our blinded vision,—wilt Thou come to us upon the wings of sorrow ; wilt Thou speak to us from its accents ; wilt Thou come and wipe away the tears from off all faces.

" As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so longeth our soul after Thee, O God." If there is anything in us that would hinder Thy coming ; if there is attachment to meaner loves, or lesser values ; if there are the old allurements of World, and Flesh, and Devil,—O Father, come and speak to us, that, with the music of Thy voice, all meaner voices may be hushed ; and we may be able to hear what God, the Lord, will speak.

Bring us to the Cross to-day, that there, in the Blood of Jesus, we may find atonement for our guilt ; in the love of the Father we may find encouragement in our fear ; in the sacrifice of Calvary we may find our peace with God.

There are sad hearts in this congregation,—hearts that have been visited by sorrow ; hearts that have been dazed by the mystery of bereavement and loss ; hearts that have been feeling very lonely in the midst of the battle of life. To all such wilt Thou speak to-day in peace and love ; and in the still ministries of this hour, wilt Thou bring them very close to Thee.

We ask all our petitions in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord ; who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—" Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

JEREMIAH XXXI, 3

O God, Who hast loved us with everlasting love, which was before the foundation of the world; help us to feel, that however the world goes for us, and whatever be its attitude towards us, the love of God will somehow be revealed in it; the love of God will throb through all its pulses; and speak through all its voices; and shine through all its darkness, as we pursue our pilgrim journey adown its paths of mystery and pain.

O God, Who hast assured us, that though the Mountains depart, and the hills be removed, Thy kindness shall not depart from us, nor Thy covenant of peace be removed;—help us to feel amid these days of unrest and unsettlement, that the attitude of God toward us is still unchanged. Help us to feel, when the very foundations of our national welfare seem to be threatened, that God and the love of God are still as strong as ever; and that no matter what we stand to lose or gain, no matter what things may be shaken, and depart from us, the heart of the Eternal is still a heart of love, and that all that happens cannot take Him from us, nor remove His kindness from our midst.

O God, Whose love toward us is like a father's pity for his children,—wilt Thou look down on our distracted and fearful lives, we pray Thee; wilt Thou put a Father's soothing hand upon all our unrest and disquiet; and from the tumult and the noise and the warfare of the world, wilt Thou bring peace and enlargement to Thy people, prosperity and a renewal of industry to the country; and salvation and forgiveness to men and women everywhere.

O God, Whose love toward us is like a mother's comfort to her children,—wilt Thou put a comforting hand upon all the pain of human life, we pray Thee. Upon our sins, which we now confess before Thee with bowed heads and with shamed lips, do Thou put out the comforting hand of forgiveness and pardon. Upon our sorrows, which wound our

hearts and make them sore, do Thou put the comforting hand of healing and release. Upon our losses and crosses, which perplex our spirits and amaze them, do Thou put the comforting hand of thine own assurance, that we shall yet be more than conquerors through Him that loved us; that the grace of God is still sufficient for us, and that Thy strength may still be perfected, even in our human weakness.

Conscious as we are of all our failures; conscious of our own infinite need; very conscious of our unworthiness, we would put ourselves in Thy hands this morning, believing that Thou canst supply all our need, according to Thy riches in glory, by Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,— "Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

ST. LUKE IV, 18

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor: He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

As Thy gracious Spirit, O God, did rest upon the Master, anointing Him for His ministry of service and of helpfulness; so do Thou grant that that same Spirit may be upon all faithful ministers, who, in their Master's name, will this day speak words of life to their people. Anoint them all, that they may stand in their Master's place; that they may speak with their Master's voice; that they may heal and salve with their Master's touch.

For many men are poor, because they are still unacquainted with the unsearchable riches of Christ. Give to all such a message to-day, that they may turn from the things that are only second-rate, and may seek the true

riches. O let none of us rest content with mere earthly things ; but enable us, who are made in the image of God, to seek the things of God, and so to be rich toward Him.

And some are broken-hearted, by reason of the dispensations of Thy Providence toward them. Thou hast spoken to them in tears and sorrows, and hast laid Thy hand heavily upon them. O Man of Sorrows,—the Acquaintance of grief,—come to-day to all who are bowed down by heavy burdens,—to all whose Cross is heavy, and whose lives are sad. And when Thou dost manifest Thyself to them, Thou wilt enable them to cast their burden on the Lord, and to know that He careth for them.

And some are captives, bound by chains of some secret sin, some evil habit, from whose thraldom they cannot escape. Wilt Thou give to them, O Christ, a vision of Thyself in all Thy loveliness and in all Thy love, that they may fall in love with Jesus, and that their love for Him may expel from their lives all meaner motives, and may loose them from the dominion and the tyranny of their sin.

If any are blind, because their eyes have not been opened to the beauty of holiness,—do Thou touch their eyes to-day, that they may see. And with seeing eyes, may we all look unto Thee, and be saved, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

" Our Father, which art in Heaven," etc. Amen.

ST. JOHN XIV, 26

Spirit of God, Who hast promised to bring to the remembrance of thy people whatsoever the Master has said unto them,—graciously be pleased, we pray Thee, to stir up our hearts by way of remembrance this morning, that we may recall His gracious promises, and His loving invitations, and feel as if our hearts were burning within us, as He talks with us by the way.

Remind us of his companionship, " Lo, I am with you always ". If on life's lonely roads we have forgotten, and with blind eyes and sinking heart, have stumbled on alone ; recall to our minds this promise of companionship, and help us to put our hands in thine, as Thou walkest with us over all the rough roads of life.

Remind us of his care, " Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered ". And when we are disturbed about our homes, our money, our loved ones, help us anew to dedicate ourselves to Him, who knoweth that we are of more value than many sparrows.

Remind us of His riches, " Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine ". And when we are afraid to take risks in Thy name, to face poverty and hardship with Thee, to undertake thankless and ungracious tasks for thy sake ; remind us that no one is ever asked to go on a warfare at his own charges ; but that behind us in all our doings, there are the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Remind us of thine exhortation, " Go thy way, and sin no more ! " It is so easy for us to sin ; it is so hard for us to stand. Our minds incline towards the easy, downward road, rather than to the road that leads uphill all the way. Our hearts are deceitful and naturally seek the paths that are alluring and warm with passion. O remind us of thine exhortation, " Go, and sin no more ! " and help us to strain with all our might, and with all Thy might to burst the bonds that bind us, and chain us to our sins.

Remind us of his warning, " Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also ". Help us to lay up for ourselves treasures in the heavens.. We have been too anxious about our earthly treasures, and have allowed the heavenly treasure to fade from our thoughts. O help us to bestir ourselves, and seek earnestly the best things, lest, being enriched with this world's goods, we should have to stand

at last in thy presence, " miserable, and wretched, and poor, and blind, and naked ".

Remind us of His commandment, " Watch, lest ye enter into temptation ! " We have found to our cost, that our Adversary is watchful. If we relax our vigilance, he has gained a victory, and we are overthrown. Help us to watch, as our Adversary is watchful.

And help us to watch, too, for the Master cometh. We know not the day ; we know not the hour,—at midnight, at cock-crowing, or in the morning. But the Master cometh! And lest He should find us asleep, when He cometh, help us to be watchful.

And help us to watch, too, for time is slowly slipping into Eternity. Help us to work for Eternity, and not for time alone.

Remind us of his ideal for us, that " men should pray always, and not faint ". With this end in view, wilt Thou hear our intercessions, which we now present in His name,—

For thy Church, at home and abroad.
For her ministers.
For our country.
For our King.
For those who manage the affairs of State.
For every endeavour to promote peace and prosperity.
For soldiers and sailors.
For all who are facing a crisis in their lives.

These our prayers we present unto Thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord ; who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say, " Our Father, which art in heaven," etc.

Amen.

ST. JOHN XVI, 15

Spirit of God, Who dost take the things of Christ, and shew them unto us,—wilt Thou graciously be pleased so to do with us this morning, we beseech Thee: for we realise that without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we cannot get near to the secret place of the Most High; nor can we enter into the warm fellowship of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Wilt Thou shew us the winsomeness of Jesus,—that heart that is so tender towards the wanderers of the world, the careless, the indifferent, the loveless, the lonely. Wilt Thou help us to follow Him along the Galilean street in His ministry of tenderness. And as we see Him lay His healing hands upon the open sores of life,—as we see Him call the prodigal back from the far-country to his Father's House;—as we see Him touch to new manhood and womanhood those who have degraded themselves, and lived unworthily;—wilt Thou give us the grace to bring our own lives, bruised, broken, disappointed and disfigured, that we, too, may experience the healing of those kindly hands of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Wilt Thou shew us the beauty of His holiness,—not just on the Mountain of Transfiguration, when the heavens shone their wondrous light upon Him and His friends,—but in the common ways of life, and among its common people, and beside its common duties. Help us to see the vision of His beauty, even when, disfigured and bleeding, He hung upon the Cross. And when we see it, wilt Thou draw us into His presence, that we, too, may share His spirit; may shine with His reflected glory, and may be transfigured by the divine life within us,—even the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Wilt Thou shew us something of the honesty of Jesus,—His scorn of whatsoever things are mean and selfish and contemptible; His condemnation of hypocrisy and sham; His hatred of selfishness and self-seeking. And may the

power of His example lead us, too, to turn our backs upon all mean and base motives, upon all selfish and unworthy ambitions, and to turn courageously toward whatever sacrifice or difficulty Thou mayest ask us to face, with the fearless courage of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Wilt Thou shew us also something of the sympathy of Jesus. We would follow Him along the road of sorrows; we would hear Him named, "Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief". And as we remember that His sufferings are the guarantee of His sympathy, so would we be emboldened to tell Him all the sorrow of our heart, that He may lay His hand upon the tomb of our loss, and upon the altar of our sacrifice, and may make us feel that they are His, as well as ours; and that when we try to take His yoke upon us, He will assuredly bear our sins, and carry our sorrows.

These our petitions we present in His name, who has taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—"Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

ST. JOHN XVI, 15

Spirit of God, Who dost take the things of Christ, and shew them unto us,—we would bespeak Thy gracious ministry to-day. For we want to see Jesus for ourselves; and we shall see Him, and know Him, and recognize Him only as Thou wilt take and make Him real to our longing hearts.

Shew us something of His beauty, that beauty that makes Him chief among ten thousand and altogether lovely; that beauty that is the reflection of the kind and gracious face of the Father. And as we see it, wilt Thou beget in us such a desire to be like Him, that we shall turn in loathing from our sins,—that we shall open out the book of our life, with all its blots and stains, with the sins of omission and of commission; and, making confession of them all, shall

lay our lives upon His altar, and be freed from the burden of our guilt.

Shew us something of His love,—that love that went all the way to Calvary for us,—facing the Cross and its agony, bearing the shame and the scoffing that we might be born again, and become the sons of God. And as we realise that He has loved us with everlasting love, may we have courage and assurance given us to trust that love for time and for eternity, knowing that however that love may speak to us, or whatever that love may bring to us, it will be for our best and highest, and will make us a little liker to the Perfect Man.

Shew us something of His patience,—that patience that has borne with our waywardness, when it might have cast us off,—that patience that has wrought with our fickleness, in spite of many a disappointment,—that patience that has followed us even to the far country, and has wooed and won us back to the Father's house. Help us not to grieve that patience longer; but to arise and follow Jesus wherever He may lead.

Shew us something of His power. For we are assured that His word is still powerful to cast out devils; to forgive sins; to give the victory over temptation. Reveal Thy power in this Church to-day by turning men and women to God. Reveal Thy power in this City by casting down the barriers that keep men and women from Thee. Reveal Thy power in the Country by restoring times of peace and of prosperity. Reveal Thy power among the heathen by turning many to righteousness.

These our petitions we present in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,—who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—" Our Father," etc. Amen.

AFTER READING ST. JOHN XVII

O God, Who art the Hearer and the Answerer of prayer, wilt Thou hear us this morning, as we ask Thee that the prayer of Thy Blessed Son for His disciples may be abundantly answered in our experience.

" That they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." May every item of this service lead us to know Thee better, and to see in Jesus Christ, our Lord, a revelation of the kindness and of the everlasting love which are in the heart of the Eternal.

" That they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves." It is for that joy that we pray to-day, O Father. Not the joy of human possessions, which is all too often weakness, but the joy of the Lord, which is our strength ; not the joy of the world, which passes with the passing days, but the joy of the Master, which no man taketh from us.

" That they also might be sanctified through the truth." O help us to make Thy truth our own. Help us so to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Thy truth, that our lives shall be possessed by it, and that it shall set us free from the fetters of the flesh. Help us to come into such close association with Him who is " The Truth ", that our lives shall reflect His spirit, and we shall become holy even as He is holy.

" That they all may be one ; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee." Wilt Thou so come among us this morning, that we shall forget all the things that separate us, and shall be possessed of one desire, — to come into closer fellowship with Thee. Wilt Thou so reveal Thyself to every waiting soul to-day, that all our differences, and dislikes, and prejudices, will become one eager desire to be like Thee. Wilt Thou so speak to us throughout this service, that we shall forget all our private worries and anxieties

and cares, and shall be filled with the desire to hear what God, the Lord, will speak.

" That they may behold my glory, which Thou hast given me." Touch our eyes, O Christ, that they may see Thee as the Desire of all nations, after whom the heart longeth, as the dry parched ground longeth for the rain. Help us to see Thee as the Cedar of Lebanon, beneath whose spreading branches there dwell " all fowl of every wing ". Help us to see Thee as chief among ten thousand ; as the fairest of the sons of men ; as the King of kings, who is crowned with many crowns.

We ask it in Thy name. Amen.

I TIMOTHY VI, 12

O God, Who hast called us to fight the good fight of faith, and to endure the conflict to the very end,—grant unto us, we pray Thee, that as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, we may put on the whole armour of God ; we may march forth against the forces of evil ; and when things are going hard with us, and victory seems far away, we may be enabled to endure, as seeing Him who is invisible, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Help us to fight against our besetting sin. We want to surrender unto Thee our complete manhood and womanhood. We do not want to give Thee only a portion of our heart, and to keep the rest for the world and the things of the flesh. We do not want to make Thee only the part tenant of our lives ; we want Thee to have all,—to take possession of us, body, soul, and spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The sin which doth so easily beset us, we confess unto Thee in the silence of our hearts. O Love of God, that doth beset us behind and before, and dost lay thine hand upon us, take away our sins. For Thou art greater than our sins. Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. And

not as our offences are Thy gracious gifts. For the free gift is of many offences unto justification of life.

Weakened by our constant failures; soiled through contact with the things of the world; saddened by our inability to conquer in the perpetual strife, we lay ourselves and all our sins into Thy holy keeping; and we ask Thee to bring us into touch with the Cross of Jesus Christ, where our sins are pardoned through the blood of the Cross.

Where men and women are in a sea of sorrow, do Thou, O Lord, stand by them in their affliction. Bring to their remembrance the consolations of the Scriptures, and help them in their sorrow to take to themselves the special promises which Thou hast made to those who are exercised by such sorrows. Help them to remember that neither height of affliction nor depth of sorrow can separate them from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Be near to those in whose homes death is lying, white and still to-day; and may they, through the Scriptures, have hope and comfort.

Remember our country; our King and Queen, and the Royal House. May they live very close to the King of Kings.

Bless Thy servant, the Premier of the nation; and may all who are associated with him, help to establish peace in our midst; to avert war and disquiet; to bring prosperity to the nation; and righteousness to the world.

Remember our Missionaries, and crown their labours with success.

"Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And

forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, our God, to Thee belongeth righteousness; but unto us confusion of face, as at this day: for we have sinned against Thee, and our transgressions are many. Nay, our sins have overwhelmed us as a flood; they have gone over our heads like the deep waters, and there is no good thing in us at all. We were hopeless; we were in despair to-day, but for the goodness and the mercy of God, and for the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We came to Thee last week, and dedicated our lives to Thy most holy service. When we tarried in the atmosphere of prayer and worship, we believed that we had cast the world behind us, and that our lives were set towards goodness and towards God. But the tear and wear of the following days drew us back again toward the world, and ere we knew it, we were shouting with its voices, and mingling with its pleasures, and laughing at its favours,—forgetful of Thee and of all our sacred promises.

When we stood up in Thy presence to sing aloud Thy praise, our hearts were glowing with gratitude towards Thee. And we thought, aye, we believed that all our lusts and our passions were in leash at last, and that the man had gained the victory over the beast. But when we left Thy House, and ere the week had gone, the hot breath of the world was upon our souls again; its fever-throbbing was among our pulses; and to-day again we cry, "Unclean, Unclean!"

As we listened to the preaching of Thy most Holy Word, our hearts were warm within us. We felt that Thou hadst joined Thyself unto our company; that the veil between the

seen and the unseen was rent asunder ; that the glow and the glory of the eternal things had burst upon our vision. To-day, we return to Thee in penitence and sorrow. The dust of the world is in our eyes, and we have lost sight of Thee. The hands of the world are touching us on every side, and we have lost touch with Thee.

O Holy and ever-blessed God, Who willest not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance,—breathe on us the spirit of repentance, we beseech Thee,—that godly sorrow for sin, which will come to our hearts like the life-giving rain to the barren soil. So shall our godly sorrow work for us a repentance unto salvation not to be repented of.

We ask it for Thine own sake ; for Thy heart is tender towards us, " How shall I give thee up, Ephraim, How shall I deliver thee, Israel ! "

We ask it for our own sakes. How shall we live without Thee, and how else shall our empty lives be filled !

We ask it for Jesus sake For He has died that our sins might be forgiven.

Amen.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Lord Jesus, Who, on Thy way throughout this world, didst meet the experiences which face us all upon our common road :—we thank Thee that Thy presence on the road makes it easier for us to walk there ; and Thy words of encouragement bring us inspiration in the dreary days.

We thank Thee for Thy childhood. For it brings Thee near to our children, and gives us the assurance that the God of little children has our children's interests at heart : that the Christ of the Resurrection and of the Glory has the heart of a little child. Unto Thee, O Christ, we commend our little ones ; and to Thy divine care we entrust them. Bless all the children of this Church, and bring every

one of them to a living, personal, saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for Thy toil. And because Thou hast known at first hand, the bent back and the sweating brow, we bring to Thee and to Thy care all who toil. Remember the toilers by land and by sea. Remember those who work in dangerous places, among machinery and in the mines. Remember those who toil with the head, and those who toil with the hands. O toiling Christ, do Thou be near them, and help them all to have the vision of Christ with them in their toil.

We thank Thee for Thy sorrows. We bless Thee that Thou hast come to us as a "Man of Sorrows". For from Thy sorrows we have received consolation, and from Thy pierced hand we have derived our help. We thank Thee that because of Thy sorrows,—because Thou hast known the bleeding heart and the blinding tear, we can commend to Thy good care all mourners and all burdened spirits. Look round upon this congregation to-day, O Christ, and lay Thy kindly hand,—Thy pierced hand,—upon every sorrowful heart. As once Thou didst stand at even in the midst of the blind and the bruised, and didst bring them healing, so do Thou bring consolation to-day to every one that is distressed; and do Thou make them strong to meet their crises,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for Thy sacrifice. Thou hast exalted the way of self-denial and of unselfishness, and we would try to follow Thee upon that high and holy road. Thou hast by that same sacrifice, purchased for us reconciliation and atonement. Do Thou blot out all our sins through the blood of the Cross, and bring us nigh, very nigh, unto the loving heart of God. Come, and help us to renew our covenant with Thee, and to lay our lives upon Thine altar, that we all may be ready to follow Thee wherever Thou shalt lead,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

"Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

A PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Almighty God, the Father and Creator of us all, by Whose breath we live, and in Whose life we are sustained,—hear us, we beseech Thee, as we pray for all classes and conditions of men that, led by Thy grace, and conducted by Thy Spirit, they may lead sober, righteous and godly lives, and adorn in all things the doctrine of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For our beloved King and Queen, and all members of the Royal household, that they may live in closest fellowship with the King of Kings, and may enjoy the constant blessing of the Lord of Lords.

For our Members of Parliament and all Rulers, that the spirit of wisdom and sound counsel may be shed abroad among them, so that all their legislation may be in righteousness, to the end that our country, our anxious and distressed country, may be established, and strengthened in the councils of the nations; so that quietness and confidence may be restored to her life; so that new life and vigour may be infused into all her industry.

For all Ministers of Religion, that they may live worthy of the great faith which Thou hast had in them, and may win men and women into the Kingdom of God, not by their words only, but also by their good and consistent lives. May they be enabled to live the truth which they proclaim with their lips, and to adorn the doctrine which they preach from their pulpits.

For labourers and employers alike, that they may learn the dignity of service, and may realise that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. Help them to look, "not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen", that they may come to realise that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth", but rather in the knowledge and in the fellowship of God.

For all who guide our thoughts,—by their writing, or their teaching, or their speaking. May they be led to sun their own lives under the radiance of whatsoever things are pure and lovely and of good report.

For all whose hands outgo in the ministry of healing, or of helpfulness,—in Hospital, or Infirmary, or in the Home. May they be inspired by the spirit, and made kindly by the touch of Him who was called the Good Physician.

For all who are sick and ailing ; for all who are burdened or oppressed ; for all who labour and are heavy laden ; for all to whom the night brings no quiet rest, and dawn no radiant hope ; for the aged and the dying ; for the suffering and the solitary. May they all be strengthened by Thy might and cheered by Thy good Spirit. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For all travellers, who by land or sea, have gone far from home, and who are often wistful with sacred memories. Be Thou the home of their spirits, and the rest and peace of their hearts.

For any who have wandered far from the teaching of home, and have found place among the citizens of the far country, or among its herds of swine. May the memories of home knock with insistent hand at the door of their hearts, till they say within themselves, " I will arise, and go to my Father ! "

For all who are burdened with the consciousness of sin ; who are seeking to turn from it with hatred and with loathing. May the burden be removed, and the sin be forgiven, and may the tears of the penitent give place to the song of the redeemed.

For our friends and for our enemies, that all may become friends of God. For all whose prayers have been ascending for us ; and for all who have asked us to pray for them.

May the Friend who intercedes for us at God's right hand, bring them into living fellowship with Thee.

These, our prayers, we present unto Thee in the Name of Jesus Christ, who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—" Our Father," etc. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

O God, our Father,—Who with Thine own Blood hast purchased Thy Church, and who hast set on it Thy seal, that it might be a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing . . . grant, we beseech Thee, that Thy Church throughout all the world may be blest and sanctified, that, through the agency of Thy divine grace, she may be purified from all meanness and from all hypocrisy, and made strong and powerful, able to lead in the counsels of men, and to point the road to all highest ideals,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for the testimony of Thy Church throughout the ages ; for the emphasis it has laid upon the unseen and eternal things : for its fidelity in pointing ever to the things of the spirit. We thank Thee that through that testimony the material things of the world are set in their own place, and the things that are selfish and mean are rebuked and shamed. Help us, we pray, to give diligent heed to the testimony of the Church, that we may dwell day by day in the secret place of the Most High, and beneath the shadow of the Almighty.

We thank Thee for the inspiration which the Church has given us by her testimony :—that it has inspired men and women to lead the selfless life, and to count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, our Lord ; that it has pointed men and women to the road of sacrifice and pain, teaching them that life is more than meat, and that the body is more than raiment. We are better men and women to-day because these brave souls,

by their testimony and example, still speak to us across the years; still point us with their dead fingers towards the heights; still challenge us to press on for the prize of life's high calling.

We thank Thee for the ceaseless, age-long message of Thy Church,—"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow". And for all, who, through this message of Thy Church, have entered into the full assurance of forgiveness and peace, we thank Thee. O breathe upon men a spirit of longing—a desire for forgiveness and reconciliation,—a sense of their need of God; and give them no rest, no peace, till they make surrender, and lay themselves and their sins at His feet, Who died for us, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for the comfort which Thy Church has brought to men and women through the years;—for the patience it has taught them in the days of disappointment; for courage in the hours of crisis; for confidence in the time of fear; for inspiration in the common ways of life; and for quiet, brave endurance amid the thousand worries and temptations of daily experience. O bless with Thy richest love the Church in which Thine image is thus reflected, and Thy message repeated.

Bless all the Church's members, from the youngest to the oldest; from the least to the greatest; and as they worship here and elsewhere, be very present with them, to give them the desires of their hearts.

These, and all our petitions we present unto Thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who hath taught us, when we pray, thus to say,—"Our Father," etc. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE LITTLE CHILDREN

O Lord Jesus, Who didst point to little children as the type of the Kingdom of Heaven, give unto us this day the spirit

of little children, that we may sit down at our Master's feet, and learn of Him ; that we may look up into His face, and try to become like Him ; that we may put our hands in His, and walk along life's roads in His company ; that we may learn to know the sound of His voice, and to catch His heavenly accents, and be known amongst our fellows as those who have seen Jesus.

O Lord, Who didst warn us that we put no stumbling-block or rock of offence in the way of our children,—grant, we beseech Thee, that for their sakes, we may sanctify ourselves, that they also may be sanctified through the truth. Grant that for their sakes, we may dismiss from our lives whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie. Grant that for their sakes, nothing that defileth may be allowed to enter into our relationships in the family, into our conversation in the home. Grant that for the sake of our children, we may purify ourselves, even as Christ is pure.

O God, Whose will it is that not one of these little ones should perish,—grant a blessing, we pray Thee, upon all men and women, and upon all agencies whose efforts are being devoted to the salvation of the children. We thank Thee for all those into whose hearts Thou hast put it to help the little ones to a fuller and a richer life. And we beseech Thee that Thou wouldst pour the spirit of blessing upon all our Sabbath Schools and our Teachers. May the children catch from their Teachers something of the Spirit of the Great Teacher Himself. And may the little ones be brought to a definite knowledge of salvation and of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Christ, Who didst take the little children up in Thine own arms, and lay Thine hands on them, and bless them ;—we bring to Thee the children of our Church, of our homes, and we ask Thee to repeat on them the gracious act of benediction. We are praying for a new heaven and a new earth. We were hoping that out of the chaos of war this

blessing would come. And the war has not brought it. Lay Thine hands upon our children, O Christ; and so breathe Thy spirit into them, that in their lives, and by their acts, the New Heaven and the New Earth may be realised unto us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COLLECTS

AFTER SERMON—6
AFTER OFFERING—9
AFTER CHRS. SERMON—1

AFTER SERMON

1

O GOD, we thank Thee for all those, who, by entering into the House of God, have made it easier for others to do so, and have helped them nearer to the Kingdom. May all who have entered Thy House to-day, receive a blessing from the preaching of Thy Word, and by its messages be inspired, and saved, and comforted: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

2

O God, Who givest all,—give Thy blessing to the preaching of Thy Word, here and elsewhere; that, from the King on the Throne to the beggar in the street; from the wise man in his wisdom to the native in the kraal,—men and women everywhere may be blest to-day, and brought into living touch with God. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

3

O God, Who knowest what Thy people need far better than any of us can tell Thee; and who canst take the lisping, stammering words of our message, and from them bring comfort to sad hearts; inspiration to weary lives,

and companionship to those that are lonely,—be pleased, we pray Thee, to give a blessing to every one within this Church to-day, according to their particular need, and according to Thy riches in glory,—Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

4

Paul may plant, and Apollos water ; but it is God only that giveth the increase. Spirit of God, breathe upon the spoken word, that it may be fruitful in our lives, and may bring forth fruit unto life eternal,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

5

O Lord Jesus, Who art the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever,—let that grace which hallowed Thy people of old hallow, and sanctify us now ; that mercy which called the sinners to repentance, bring us home to Thee to-day ; and that peace, which Thou didst bestow on Thy disciples, be our portion for ever. Amen.

6

O God, Whose Word it is that we preach, and whose message it is that we deliver ;—do Thou forget about the weakness, the unworthiness, the sinfulness, of the preacher, we beseech Thee ; and do Thou honour Thy blessed Word among us, by making it bring forth fruit in our lives, unto Life Eternal.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

AFTER THE OFFERING

I

O God, Who hast enabled us to contribute to thy cause from the proceeds of our labour, and so hast linked together

our worship and our toil ; accept, we pray Thee, these free-will offerings of thy people this morning, and bless them to the furtherance of Thy cause and Kingdom in this and other lands,

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

2

O God, Who hast given to man the honour and dignity of becoming a " worker together with God " ;—accept these, our free-will offerings, we pray Thee ; and use them toward the furtherance of Thy cause and kingdom :—that through our gifts,—the fruit of our toil,—Thy kingdom may be increased, and may spread throughout the world, till the kingdoms of this earth become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. Amen.

3

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be ;
All that we have, is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

Accept the offering, which through Thy giving, we are enabled to give unto Thee ; and do Thou use it for Thine own blessed purposes in this, and other lands,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

4

Our silver and our gold are Thine, O Lord. For it is from Thee that we have received the power to work, and to earn our money. Therefore would we give Thee gladly what is Thine, and pray that Thou mayest make use of it for the working out of Thine own plans and purposes, and for the spread of Thy cause and kingdom here and elsewhere,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

5

O God, Who art rich in all that is good and gracious and worthy ;—we thank Thee that Thou dost not despise our gifts to Thee, poor and mean although they be. Accept these gifts of ours, we pray Thee,—looking not on the gift, but on the spirit of the giving,—and do Thou use them to Thine own ends, for the furtherance of Thy Blessed Kingdom, here and elsewhere. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

6

O God, Who hast given unto us all things richly to enjoy, —we thank Thee for Thy gifts so freely given. And in our turn we would bring our gifts unto Thee, and would ask Thee to accept them for the furtherance of Thine own cause and kingdom here and elsewhere,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

7

O God, to Whom belong all the treasures of the world, grant that, as we give our gifts to Thee of our poverty and of our riches, we may also give ourselves with humility and sincerity, and so make our offering of gold or silver to be acceptable, well-pleasing in Thy sight, and of service to Thy blessed cause and Kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

8

O God, Who givest unto all men liberally and upbraideth not,—give us the generous hand and the ungrudging heart that, when we give our gifts to Thee, we may do so in the God-like spirit. Accept our gifts, and use them for thine own cause, here and elsewhere.

For Jesus' sake. Amen.

9

"Who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given unto Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again." Thou art not a debtor unto any of us. We are all debtors to Thee. We give Thee but Thine own, and far less than Thine own, when we give. Accept our gifts, we pray Thee, poor and feeble though they be; and use them to the furtherance of Thine own cause: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

AFTER THE CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

O Christ, Who wast once a child,—bless the children of this Church, and bring them all to thy mercy-seat. Fill every one of them with a desire to serve Thee; help them to consecrate their lives to the best service; and to put out their lives to the best interest. We ask it for thy name's sake. Amen.

EVENING PRAYERS

1

WE come into Thy presence to-night, O Lord, seeking that Thy peace may be about us, and may lap us around. As the shadows of evening gather about us, wilt Thou bring us into touch with Him, in whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. As the sounds of the day die down around us, give us ears to hear the sound of Thy voice, calling us into living fellowship with God. And as we rest our bodies and our hands from the labours of the week, help us to respond, here and now, to the blessed invitation that calls all weary and heavy laden souls into the rest and peace of God.

We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

2

Spirit of God, Whose breath is life and health to our souls, breathe on us to-night, we pray Thee, that we may be quickened and renewed, and made responsive to every advance of God.

Spirit of God, Whose influence is peace and rest ;—breathe on us now, we pray, that we may lay aside all things that distress or disturb us,—all doubts or thoughts that would come between us and Thee,—all unrest and vexations that would keep us from the altar of complete surrender. Let Thy holy influence lap us about as an atmosphere, and find its way into the very depths of our souls,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Spirit of God, without Whom our teaching and our preaching are but empty words,—breathe on us to-night,

and with Thy presence pervade this service, lest, being careful and concerned about the things that are seen, we should miss the message of the things that are unseen,—

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

3

O God, Who, with the eventide, dost bring a hush and quiet over the world around us,—wilt Thou come to us in the hush and the stillness ; and, as, with quiet hearts and waiting spirits we take our places before Thee, do Thou speak to us so that we cannot choose but hear. As the voices of the earth die down around us, do Thou cause us to hear the sound of the voice of God. As the shadows begin to deepen and the darkness to fall, do Thou come to us, and make light within our spirits. As the call of rest comes to us on the wings of the evening, do Thou grant that all tired spirits may find rest and peace in Thee.

We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

4

O God, Whose love, in its breadth, and length, and depth, and height, surpasses all our human understanding, help us to commit our lives anew this night into Thy holy care and keeping, in the blessed assurance that we can never drift beyond Thy love and care,—and in the sure and steadfast faith that love will do the best for us, to portion out our lives and to direct them in the way that Thou wouldst wish them to go.

O God, Whose power is greater than our weakness, and can never be exhausted by all the demands that our weakness makes upon it,—we would ask Thee so to put Thy strength upon us, that we shall be conscious of Thy life within us,—and so to nerve and to encourage our frail hearts that we shall turn unflinching faces towards all life's temptations, and towards all its crises, knowing that Thou

canst make us more than conquerors, through Him that loved us.

Where we have come short of Thy divine ideal for us, and have failed to approach the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ,—come, and clothe us with Thy strength, and give us courage to begin again.

Where we have failed of our own ideal, and have fallen far beneath the standard of the perfect man,—come, and redirect our steps towards the heights, and help us to press on.

Where we have disappointed our fellow-men, and have failed to come up to their ideal of us,—help us to receive from Thee such a spirit of grace and of humility, that the name of Christ shall be written over our lives, and those who see us, shall take note that we have been with Jesus.

O God, Whose mercy is deeper than our sin, and has never been exhausted by all our ingratitude and sinfulness,—by all our carelessness and want of faith,—we pray Thee to-night for renewed forgiveness for all our sins. Forgive the past, we pray Thee. We bring before Thee in confession all the sins that we remember, and all the sins we have forgotten,—our sins of omission, and our sins of commission,—our sins of the heart, and our sins of the mind,—the sins of passion and the sins of pride,—the sins of hardness and uncharity and unloveliness. We bring them all before Thee, and we keep nothing back. Forgive, through Thy great love and mercy ; and make us conscious that the burden of our sin has been taken away, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

5

O Lord, Who knowest all the regret, the struggle and the failure of the week that is past,—do Thou come among us to-night, and lay a hand of healing upon every heart before Thee here,—that we may be touched into new life and hope,

and that our spirits may be tuned into perfect harmony with Thine.

We thank Thee that Thou knowest all. It is a relief to our burdened spirits to know that Thou knowest. Thou understandest better than we can explain : Thou knowest better than we can confess. And therefore in lowly dependence and in humble hope, we would bring our broken vows, our remembered failures, our omissions and commissions to the mercy-seat, and would ask for pardon and forgiveness, —through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Lord, Who canst take our broken lives, and make them after the perfect pattern,—our unfinished symphonies, and make them into harmonies of heaven,—our unattained ideals, and make them lure us upward to the heights of life,—come and help us to-night, as, in Thy name, we lay our lives upon Thine altar, and ask Thee to take them, and to use them for Thine own high purposes,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

6

O God, to Whom our lives are as an open book, and Who knowest our history far better than we can tell it unto Thee ; —wilt Thou look down upon Thy waiting servants, we beseech Thee ; wilt Thou have regard unto the needs of their souls,—their hungers,—their desirings ; and wilt Thou let these needs come before Thee as unspoken prayers ; and wilt Thou answer them for us according to Thy riches in glory, by Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Our sins are crying unto Thee for pardon. And Thou didst go to the Cross in order to make our pardon real, and to win for us forgiveness through the blood of the Cross. O God, Who knowest our sins, and Whose heart is infinitely tender toward the sinner,—come to-night and pardon us, and cast all our sins behind Thy back into the deep sea of Thy forgetting love.

Our weaknesses are crying unto Thee for Thy divine strength and help. And Thou wast manifested, O Christ, in order that out of Thy fulness we might all receive strength and grace; in order that Thy grace might be perfected in our weakness; in order that our infirmities and our sicknesses might be laid upon Thee. O God, who knowest the way we have to take throughout the coming week; who knowest its temptations and inducements;—be near us to-night, and give us a message that will help us to endure as seeing Him who is invisible,—even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Spirit of God,—Who canst breathe life into our cold hearts, and love into our unresponsive spirits,—come, and breathe on us to-night, as we wait before Thee. Make us all sensible that Thou hast been with us,—till these common walls and common seats shall all be transfigured by the radiance of Thy presence; and till we feel,—every one of us—that here we have seen, and here we have heard no man, save Jesus only,—

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

7

O God, our Father,—at this hour of offering our evening sacrifice, we pray that Thou wouldest be among us, to inspire our thoughts, to quicken our desires, to deepen our reverence, and so to make our sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If any selfishness be present in this service, which might lead us to think of the creature, rather than of the Creator; if any sinfulness be present in us, which would darken our hearts, and dim the vision of God; if any levity of spirit be about us, which would divide our heart and our attention, and make us miss the message of our Master:—remove these from us, O God, we pray Thee, and make this an hour of hallowed fellowship, of sweet communion with Thyself,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

8

As the day dies down, and the shadows of evening gather about us, do Thou quieten our hearts before Thee, O God, that with the peace of the evening in our hearts, and the hush of expectation in our lives, we may be able to hear what God, the Lord will speak.

Give us the peace of forgiveness,—" being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ ",—Let no consciousness of sin come between us and Thee, no jarring note of self-accusing make disharmony in our spirits. Help us to realise that Thou hast put our sins behind Thy back, and that in Thy love and mercy, Thou wilt remember them no more.

Give us the peace of assurance. Help us to say from the heart, " I know whom I have believed ". And in the assurance that He will keep what we have committed to Him against that day, enable us to live worthy of our great hope. We know that Thou wilt not fail us. We know that Thou canst not deny Thyself. We know that Thou art " ever faithful, ever sure " to Thy promised Word. Help us to rest on that Word, and in its assurance to find our peace.

Give us the peace that ever follows faithfulness,—that approbation of spirit that comes to those who do their duty. Help us to do faithfully whatever our hands find to do. And when we realise that Thou hast given us a task to do, help us to do it with our might, as unto God. Breathe on us the spirit of faithfulness, and in it we shall find peace.

Give us Thy peace, O Christ,—the peace that the world cannot give ; the peace it cannot take away. We open our hearts and lives that that peace may be ours : and we cast ourselves upon Thine everlasting mercy. So wilt Thou keep us in perfect peace, whose minds are stayed on Thee.

We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

EVENING THANKSGIVING
(After Communion)

O God, in Whose Holy Name we meet together to-night to render praise and thanks to Thee for all Thy goodness unto us,—wilt Thou come amongst us, and touch our hearts, that we may be able to express our gratitude for all the tender mercies and for all the gracious benefits that Thou hast bestowed on Thy people.

We thank Thee that Thou didst spare us to see again the Communion season. For the mercy which spared us throughout these days, when one and another were being removed from our midst, we give Thee thanks, O Lord. And we pray that in Thy mercy Thou wilt continue to spare us and to bless us, until Thou hast perfected that which concerns us, and hast realised Thy plan and purpose in our lives.

We thank Thee that Thou didst permit us to make our profession of faith at Thy Table to-day ; and to partake of the sacred feast. Grant that through that feast, and above all, through the love on which the feast is founded, our own faith may be strengthened ; our love may be enriched ; our hopes may be uplifted, and our whole lives transfigured and inspired.

We thank Thee for the message of the Communion Season. And as Jesus would not have His friends to forget Him, or to let Him slip from their thoughts,—so would we ask Thee to open anew our hearts to Him that He may come and dwell with us, not just for to-day, but always ; not just for time, but for Eternity.

We ask it for His sake. Amen.

COMMUNION SERVICES

A COMMUNION SERVICE

I

Scripture Sentences :—

THE Lord is my light and my salvation ; whom shall I fear ? The Lord is the strength of my life ; of whom shall I be afraid ?

Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear. Though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His Tabernacle shall He hide me ; He shall set me up upon a rock.

Therefore will I offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of joy ; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people.

Prayer :—

O God, our Father, Who hast established with Thy people a Covenant of peace,—grant that all Thy servants here before Thee may enter into that Covenant to-day, through Him who is the Prince of Peace,—even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Spirit of God, Who canst make that peace felt in our lives, —breathe Thine own sweet atmosphere about us this day, that the peace which passeth all understanding may keep

our hearts and minds through this same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Lord Jesus, the Mediator of the Covenant of Peace, stand with us to-day, as Thou didst with Thy disciples of old, and speak to Thy people here that old-world message, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

We ask it in Thy Name. Amen.

Praise. Psalm xxiii.

Read Isaiah liii.

Praise. "When I survey the wondrous Cross."

Prayer:—

O Lord, our God,—as we wait this morning in the presence of these earthly symbols of Thy Passion, we would take our stand with Thy servant at the foot of the Cross, and would see in vision, as he did, the drama of sacrificial love.

We would see Jesus there, without form or comeliness, and with no beauty that we should desire Him. And as we see Him, we would remember that for us to-day, He has become chief among ten thousand and altogether lovely; and we would pray that to our own lives there may come some reflection of His beauty, some touch of the beauty of His holiness. Let the beauty of the Lord be upon us, according as our hope is in Thee.

We would see Him again "despised and rejected of men", Who came unto His own, and His own received Him not. And we would remember that His rejection by men meant our acceptance with God, and gave us a place in His Kingdom, and a part of His eternal inheritance.

We would see Him again as " a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief." For with all the sorrows that are in the world to-day,—its open wounds, its aching hearts, its empty homes,—we are conscious that we cannot do without the Man of Sorrows. Enter this morning into desolate homes ; put Thy pierced hand upon the bowed head ; speak Thy kind words unto the broken heart. Whatever Thou hast taken from them, make up by Thy sweet presence. Whatever they have lost, may they have the assurance that Thou wilt never leave them nor forsake them.

We would see Him again " wounded for our transgression, and bruised for our iniquities ". For we realise that only through His wounding and His afflictions have we been washed from our sins. O Christ, who in Thy Blood hast opened a fountain for sin and for uncleanness, we claim our portion in that cleansing flood. We know that we have sinned, and echoes of our failure come in upon us even as we sit at Thy Table. Yet we know that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin, and that now we stand before Thee justified from all our past. So in those broken symbols that tell us of the Cross, we would see again our pardon, and hear Thy message, " Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Let there be nothing between us and Thee this morning. Here on Thine altar would we lay our ambitions, that we might be purged from all dross and stain ; our desires, that every vain and foolish lust might be put away ; our bodies that they might be Temples of the living God ; our spirits that in them Thou mightest see of the travail of Thy soul and be satisfied. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Intimations.

Sermon.

Praise. Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Read Warrant for Sacrament. I Cor. xi, 23-29.

Prayer before Dispensing Bread—

O Christ, who in the broken bread, hast given to the world the symbol of Thy Broken Body,—help us to remember that the Broken Body of Christ has called us, and is calling us still, to the Christlike life, the life of sacrifice and self-forgetfulness. Help us therefore, in this voiceless symbol to hear the voice that bids us, " Take up the Cross, and follow Christ." If we are finding that life is hard, we know that He did also, and that He understands our heart. If we are finding that life is lonely, He did so too ; and therefore He has promised, " I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Wilt Thou feed us with the Bread of Life. We have failed to interpret aright our own heart hunger. We have sought our satisfaction in the things that satisfy not. O Blessed Bread of Life ! Feed our hungry souls that they may be quickened into Eternal Life.

Wilt Thou feed us with the Bread of Love. We have loved worldly things, and they have not satisfied us. Here from the world we turn aside to Thee, O Bread of Love, sufficient for every man that cometh into the world,—let no one leave this Table an-hungered to-day ; but grant that all may be fed with the finest of the wheat, and may fulfil Thy blessed invitation, " Eat, O friends ; drink, yea drink abundantly, O beloved."

We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Dispense Bread.

Prayer before dispensing Wine—

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. Infinitely more precious is the death of His Son. And yet, O God, we thank Thee that Thou didst not spare

Thine own Son, but didst deliver Him up for us all. Therefore have we confidence that Thou wilt do the very utmost for us ; For if God spared not His own Son . . . how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things !

We thank Thee that, what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the flesh, accomplished for us all. For, where the blood of bulls and of goats could not purge our conscience from dead works, the Blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin.

We thank Thee that, through the blood of the Cross He has made peace between God and man. And to-day,—with no condemnation from our guilty past, with no angry snarl from the memories behind us, with no accusing voice to lay anything to the charge of God's elect, we wait before Thee in the full assurance of faith, knowing that nothing shall separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Shepherd of Israel, Who didst bring again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting Covenant,—grant that, through faith in His Blood, there may be given unto every one of us a lively hope of resurrection from the dead. Especially make real this hope to any among us who have recently suffered bereavement, and give to them the blessed assurance that they shall meet again their dead, when the day breaks, and the shadows flee away.

We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Dispense Wine.

Prayer—

Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gifts ! They are new every morning, and fresh every evening. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards us ! If

we declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

There is the unspeakable gift of Jesus Christ. His very presence on this earth has enriched our experience; has added a deeper, if more wistful note to human life; has called us all toward the stature of perfect manhood.

Remember Christless souls! For there are some who are infinitely poor, because they know not Jesus. They have no vision of the "land that lies afar", nor of the God, at whose right hand are pleasures for evermore.

There is the unspeakable gift of Love. For all the sweetness that it has added to life; for all the glimpses it has brought to us of the heart of everlasting Love; for all that we have seen of God in the love of wife and child, in the affection of parents and brethren,—our hearts are burdened with a load of gratitude to-day. As we sit at this love-feast, we recall with affection loved ones who are not here in person, though in spirit they are present with us. And we associate with us any, who, through affliction or disquiet, are absent from their wonted place to-day.

Remember loveless souls! For there are some whose world is cold and cheerless, who do not know the challenge toward the heights that lies in loving hands and loving eyes. O let them not miss the love that surpasses knowledge.

There is the unspeakable gift of Home! For all its spell upon our lives; its benediction in our wanderings; its rest amid our labours; its inspiration in our despondency, we give thanks to Thee, O God,—the Home of our souls. For the love of the Home, and the laughter of the children, we give thanks to Thee, O Christ of Bethany.

Remember homeless souls. For there are some who have no kindly inspiration and no challenge of love and trust. Be Thou their Eternal Home, O God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

There is the unspeakable gift of Life. With all its sorrows and its tragedies, we thank Thee for Life, O God.

Breathe on us, that we may enjoy real life, with that fulness which Thou alone canst give.

Remember those who will die to-day. Remember those who, on our behalf, are holding life cheap to-day on land, or on sea, or in the mines beneath the earth.

We ask all in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Benediction.

A COMMUNION SERVICE

2

Scripture Sentences.—

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.

Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me.

Prayer—

O God, Whose loving kindness and Whose tender mercies are over all Thy works,—let them be in the hearts of Thy waiting and worshipping people, this Sabbath morning, we pray Thee. We bend in reverence before Thine infinite Majesty; but we draw near with confidence to Thine infinite Compassion and to Thine Everlasting mercy. It is because we know that behind the Majesty there is a heart of Love, that we come with boldness before the Throne, and make our requests known unto God. It is because we know

that the King of Kings is the Lover of our souls, that we bring our souls before Thee now with their load of sin, of sorrow, and of song, and ask Thee to bring us into fellowship with God. It is because we know that the Holy Ghost is also the Comforter, that we lay our lives open before Thee, and ask Thee to touch them with healing hands. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise Psalm xxiii.

Read Luke xxii, 7-20.

Praise Psalm cxxvi.

Prayer—

It is as penitents that we seek Thy face this morning, O Lord. And we pray that Thou would'st lead us to the only place where penitence brings peace,—to the Cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Bring us this morning within the shadow of the Cross ; bring us to the Hill of Calvary. Lead us past the things of sense and sound this morning,—past the common things that haunt our lives, the material things that swarm about us, and bring us face to face with the Christ of the broken body and of the shed blood. May we have such holy communion with Him there, that, through the blood of the Cross, our spirits will find peace.

As we see the crowds about the Cross, the mockers, the scoffers and the tormentors,—we see ourselves among them. We see our own hands extended in derision towards the sufferer on the Cross. We hear our own voices raised in taunting sneers towards Him. We behold our own faces in that crowd, filled with anger and with hate, as we exclaim, " His blood be on us and on our children."

O Infinite Compassion of God !—stronger than our hatred, deeper than our guilt, and more enduring than our sins !—have mercy upon us, we pray Thee. And say to all

unruly hearts and lives to-day what Thou didst say to the wild waves of Galilee,—" Peace be still ! "—and make a great calm in our lives.

As we wait in the crowd before the Cross of Christ, we hear His voice in pity and in pleading, as He cries, " Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And as we hear this voice of mercy, we would claim our place in His petition. Forgive us, Father ; for Jesus has prayed for us. And since He declared that Thou always didst hear Him,—so wilt Thou answer His prayer for us, and forgive our malice, our unloveliness towards Him, our neglect of all that He has purchased for us with His blood.

At the Cross we hear Him making intercession for us ; and we would pray that the Holy Spirit might also make intercession for us, according to the promise. And through the prayers of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, we would claim the Father's forgiveness, and would take our places before Thee now as those who have been redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift ! Amen.

Praise Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Sermon.

Praise. Praraphrase xxxv. 3-6.

Read the Warrant, I Cor. xi, 23 etc.

Prayer before dispensing Bread—

As we take the Bread into our hands this morning, O Lord, we would thank Thee for all that it means for us.

For earthly bread with which our mouths have been filled, and our earthly lives sustained. We thank Thee for the food that we have already eaten to-day, and for the health and strength in virtue of which we have been able

to earn our bread. Remember in Thy mercy those who are an-hungered to-day, and open Thine hand to supply their need.

For the spiritual Bread on which our souls are nourished and fed, we give Thee thanks, O Father. Let every hungry soul be filled to-day, as we wait at Thy Table. There is enough with Thee to feed us and to fill us without stint. "He that eateth this Bread shall live for ever", Thou hast said. And in all wistfulness our hearts would answer, "Lord, evermore give us this Bread."

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Dispense Bread.

Prayer before dispensing Wine—

O Christ whose blood was shed for us all,—hear us, we beseech Thee, as in Thy Blood we seek our Pardon, and in Thy wounds we find our Balm.

In those pierced hands of Thine, we would find a blessing for our souls,—a blessing that none but Christ can give,—a blessing that the world can never take away from us.

In those pierced feet we would find our guide across life's rough way. And we would honestly try to follow where those feet have trod. And if there are blood marks all the way, we shall know that the Lord is on the road before us, and we shall thank God, and take courage.

In the tide that flowed from the pierced side of our Lord, we would find the guarantee that our sins are forgiven, and our iniquities pardoned, and that therefore there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. And with glad, though humbled hearts, we would assure ourselves that we have our portion in Him and that we are heirs of the inheritance which He has purchased by His Blood. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dispense Wine.

Prayer—

Grant, O God, that our eating and drinking to-day may have been to Thy glory. May we be strengthened to meet life's temptations by remembering what we have seen at the Cross. May we be braver to face life's crises by memory of Him who set His face resolutely to go to Calvary. May we be readier to carry our Cross, knowing that in taking it up, we shall be following Him who went all the way to Calvary for us.

For all the mercies and for all the memories that gather about the Communion Table, we give Thee thanks, O Lord. For the mercies that make us sons of God, joint heirs with Christ of all the Father owns ; and for all the uplift that comes to our hearts from the assurance of these mercies, we thank Thee.

And for these memories that make us better men,—these memories of men and women who have been with us at the Table, and whose influence still haunts us, and points us higher, we give Thee thanks. Enable us to prove worthy of them, by planting our footsteps in theirs, and following them toward the heights of life.

We thank Thee for all who have joined the Church to-day and made profession of their faith in Jesus. Bless very specially our young communicants, and follow them throughout the week with mercy and with grace. Become to them a life's companion, and lead them safely through each perplexing path of life, until they all appear in Zion to receive thy commendation, " Well done good and faithful servant : enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Remember those who gather around this Table with wistful hearts, and do Thou enter into these hearts, to fill them and to satisfy them with thine abundant grace.

Remember those who are on holiday. May the Sabbath be a holy day to them all,—a day in which God will speak to them, and bring them near the Mercy Seat.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Praise Psalm lxxii 17-19.

Benediction.

A COMMUNION SERVICE

3

Scripture Sentences—

Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save ; neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear.

And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor ; therefore His own arm brought salvation unto him, and His righteousness it sustained Him.

And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgressions in Jacob, saith the Lord.

And it shall come to pass, that before they call I will answer ; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Prayer—

O God, Whose hand is not shortened that it cannot save, —wilt Thou put out that hand of Thine to us to-day, with healing and salvation in its hold. And as we see the mark of the nails in that gracious hand, may we see there the guarantee of our salvation and of Thy love, through the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Whose ear is not heavy that it cannot hear,— wilt Thou turn Thine ear to-day to the cry of worshipping people all over the world. And wherever men and women are speaking to Thee in earnest tones and grave, wilt Thou graciously hear them, and send them an answer in peace,—

for His sake in whose Name we present all our petitions,—even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise Psalm xxiii.

Read St. Matthew xxvi, 17-35.

Prayer—

O God, at Whose invitation we gather around Thy Holy Table to-day,—wilt Thou put us into such frame of mind and heart now that we shall enter into real fellowship with Thyself; and that from us there shall depart all thoughts that trouble us, all sins that haunt us, all perplexities and doubts that weaken us. Speak to these baneful, hurtful things, and bid them go from our souls, that there may be in us nothing that would hinder our fellowship with Thyself at the Feast of Thy House.

As in the Galilean days Thou didst say to evil spirits, "Come out of the man!"—so do Thou say that to all turbulent or unlovely thoughts that would rise up against Thee. And do Thou help us to bring them into captivity to obedience of Thee. So do Thou speak to all unlovely desires, that these shall leave our hearts, and that there shall be perfect harmony between our hearts and Thine.

We lay our lives upon Thine altar in glad surrender to Thy will. Thou hast bought us, and we are Thine. Thou hast called us, and we are Thy servants. Thou hast adopted us, and we are Thy children. Give us our place as servants in Thy Kingdom. Give us our place as children at Thy Table.

Speak to us as we sit at the Table. Bring to our remembrance the great things Thou hast said to us, and done for us. And fill our hearts with deeper gratitude, when we remember all that Thou hast endured in order that we might be forgiven and saved.

Speak to us as we sit at Thy Table. Remind us again of that everlasting love wherewith Thou hast loved us. And may that Love so conquer all our thoughts and desires, that we shall seek to see and hear no man save Jesus only.

We ask it in His Name. Amen.

Praise Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Sermon.

Praise Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Read the Warrant, I Cor., xi, 23-29.

Prayer—

O God, our Father, Who hast spoken unto us in many and different ways, and hast called us unto Thee with many differing voices,—we thank Thee for the way which Thou hast opened unto us in the death of Jesus Christ, our Lord. And as we tread that road to-day, and tarry for a little under shadow of the Cross, may we be brought very near to Thee; and may we all be sensible that Thou hast been with us.

And as we hear the voice that says, "This is my Body which is broken for you",—may we feel that there is a tongue in every wound of the Master that calls us to come into fellowship with Him, and bids us share the blessings which He has bought for us on the Cross.

And as we hear these voices from Calvary, and recognise the tones of love in which these invitations are uttered,—may we leave behind us all our struggle and our striving, all our feeble toiling and endeavour, and leave it to the Master to bestow His blessing, and to bring us into the liberty of the sons of God.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dispense the Bread.

Prayer—

As to-day we wait in Thy presence, handling these dumb elements that proclaim a Saviour's love, we would make profession of our faith in the Broken Body, and in the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We would say by our very presence here and by our actions at the Table that we believe with all our heart and with all our soul in salvation by the Broken Body and the shed Blood of Jesus. We are confessing in Thy hearing, O Lord, that we know no other Name under heaven, given among men, whereby we may be saved. We are acknowledging that we are not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, but only with the precious Blood of Christ.

Through that Blood do Thou take away not only our sins, but also even the consciousness of sin. And do Thou give us to be able from this Table of Communion to look into Thy Face, and to see there that there is no condemnation for us, since the Blood of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, has cleansed us from all sin.

Dispense the Wine.

Prayer—

O God, we thank Thee for the privilege which we have enjoyed with Thee to-day. And as we leave the Table, we pray that we may not leave behind us the gracious atmosphere of the Feast,—an atmosphere which keeps us in touch with the sacred things of life, and enables us to live in touch with the secret springs of all that is good and true and undefiled.

May we carry with us the sacred memories that haunt the Table of Communion. And may these memories check every

unholy thought within us; calm every foolish fear that dogs us; brighten every noble hope that lures us to the heights of life; and inspire us to lead lives in which our fellows shall see some revelation of the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We pray for all our absent friends. Be with them wherever they are. For the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein. Be with sick and sorrowful ones, O gracious Man of Sorrows. Enter into their sadness, for Thou art acquainted with grief.

Bless the new members, and make them feel their oneness with us. Bless all the young communicants. Make them feel that with faces to the sunrise, they are on their pilgrim journey; and with hearts in tune with heaven, they are living to the praise of God. Lead them tenderly all throughout their journey. And may they come to know Thee better, and to love Thee more with every passing day.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Offering.

Benediction.

A COMMUNION SERVICE

4

Scripture Sentences—

Ho every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.

And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth, say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

Prayer—

Spirit of God, by Whose living breath our souls are quickened and made responsive,—breathe on us this morning, we pray Thee, as we wait before Thee here. Quicken our hearts, that they may leap up to meet with Thee; quicken our spirits, that they may be very conscious of Thy presence; quicken our eyes, that they may see Thee; and that behind those earthly symbols of Thy Passion, they may " behold the wondrous Cross, on which the Prince of glory died ".

We ask it in His Name. Amen.

Praise Psalm xxiii.

Read Exodus xx, 1-17.

Praise " We Sing the praise of Him who died."

Prayer—

Impelled by the instinct of our human hearts, and attracted by Thine own blessed invitation, we draw nigh Thy presence this morning, O God. We seek the place of vision and of revelation, praying that in the earthly we may be able to see the heavenly; and that in the seen and temporal, we may catch sight of the Unseen and Eternal.

In order that nothing may interfere with our vision of God, we ask Thee to take away from us whatever would dull our eyes or cloud our hearts. Search us and know our hearts; try us and know our ways; and if there be any wicked way in us, do Thou remove it from us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Remove from us all levity and carelessness, lest with clumsy and indelicate hands we should touch the sacred ark.

Take away from us all selfishness and meanness; that we may be able to appreciate the selfless sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Hush all foolish fears within us, lest in their clamour and disquiet we should lose the sound of the Master's voice.

If any sin stands as a barrier between us and Thee to-day, give us grace to make surrender of our sin, and to place our whole lives upon the altar of God.

Our eyes are longing for Thee, O God; our hearts are hungering for Thee, O Christ; our souls are waiting for God, even the living God. O disappoint us not; but give us here and now some vision of Thy bright radiance, some consciousness of Thy divine presence. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Sweep from our spirits, that spirit of unrest and of discontent, which keeps us back from Thee; and bring us into the atmosphere of Thine own peace,—the peace which is the legacy of Jesus Christ, and which the world can neither give nor take away.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise Paraphrase xli, 1-5.

Sermon.

Praise, Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Read the Warrant, I Cor., xi, 23, *etc.*

Prayer.

O Christ, the Living Bread,—we who have tried to feed our souls on the bread of pleasure, of toil, of study, would turn from all these here and now, and would feast upon the Bread of Life, that by it we might be satisfied and filled. We thank Thee that we have found no lasting satisfaction outside of Thee; and that none but Christ can satisfy.

O Christ, Whose broken body brought healing to our souls, and health to our conscience, we ask to-day that we

might again share the blessing of Thy " body broken in our stead ". We would lay our hand upon that Broken Body, claiming its healing virtues, bespeaking the redemption which it has purchased for us.

O Christ Whose hands our cruel sins have pierced,—we would make confession of all our sins,—the sins that have shamed us, that have driven the nails into Thy Blessed hands and feet ; and through that Broken Body we would receive forgiveness for them all.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dispense Bread.

Prayer—

Thanks be unto God that the Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin,—that though days and years and centuries roll by, the Blood of the Cross shall never lose its power. By it now we are washed and made whiter than the snow ; we are purged from dead works to serve the living God ; our hearts are cleansed from the consciousness of guilt ; and we who have hung our heads in shame and confusion before Thee, now look up into Thy face in the calm assurance that Thou hast given unto us the adoption of sons through the Blood of the Covenant.

O hasten the time when the stream that flowed from the Cross shall wash each continent and island, each country and dominion, till, from east to west and from north to south sin shall be no more, and righteousness and peace shall cover the earth as the waters cover the face of the deep.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Address Children.

Prayer—

Father, Who hast brought us into close view of the House Beautiful and of the City of God,—grant that the inspiration we have received therefrom, may help to make us wise and good; may help us to do justly and to walk humbly with our God from day to day; may help us to shew among our fellows and in our tasks some likeness of the Christ Himself, Who is meek and lowly and pure.

Remember our new communicants, and give them a Father's blessing.

Remember our absent friends, and hold communion with them.

Remember our Country, and clothe her with garments of righteousness.

Remember our beloved King and his royal household, and be very gracious to them all.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise, Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Benediction.

AN ORDER FOR COMMUNION SERVICE

5

Scripture Sentences.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Come unto me, all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved.

Henceforth I call you not servants . . . but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father, I have made known unto you.

The Spirit and the Bride say " Come " ; and let him that heareth say " Come " ; and let him that is athirst, come.

Eat, O friends ; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O Beloved!

Prayer.

O Lord, our God, Who canst give vision to human eyes, so that they can see in bird, and beast and flower the lessons of a bountiful Providence,—wilt Thou give vision unto our eyes this morning, and understanding to our hearts, that in the common bread and wine of this Communion Feast, we may see the deathless passion of our Lord ; and in touching and tasting of these dumb elements, may feel that we have come under the shadow of the Cross.

Breathe on us, O Spirit of the living God, that we may all be brought into touch with Thee ; that we may be separated from every kind of anxiety, from every self-accusing voice ; so that there be no barriers to our blessing this morning,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise, Psalm xxiii.

Read. Romans viii, 31-39.

Praise Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Prayer—

O God, our Father, Who hast given unto us exceeding great and precious promises ;—help us to receive these promises as from a God who cannot lie ; and enable us to put them to the proof through faith in Him, who is faithful that promised,—even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who hast given unto us the promise of access into the holiest of all,—help us here and now, to draw nigh unto the holiest, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our lives washed from every evil transgression through the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who through the Blood of Christ, hast opened unto us a new and living way into the heart of the Eternal,—help us to claim the right of entrance to the divine heart this morning, and to enjoy the privilege of fellowship with Thee, through Jesus Christ, Thy Blessed Son, our Saviour.

If there stands any sin between us and Thee this morning, do Thou enable us to make confession of it, that we may be forgiven, in accordance with the promise, " If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If with our eyes we have looked on evil things ; help us to turn away our eyes from beholding vanity.

If with our hands we have wrought any evil thing ; do Thou wash our hands in innocency, and quicken us in Thy way.

If with our feet we have wandered in forbidden paths, or have approached the borders of the far country ; do Thou turn our feet homeward, and our faces towards our Father's House.

We are met here to-day that we may all be guests at Thy Table. We would put away from us, and we would pray Thee to put away from us whatever would keep us from being in perfect accord with the Master of the Feast ; whatever would make us unable to hold converse with Him, or to enjoy His blessed fellowship.

We ask it all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Intimations.

Praise. " By Christ redeemed, in Christ restored."

Sermon.

Praise Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Read the Warrant, I Cor. xi, 23-29.

Prayer before Dispensing Bread—

O Lord Jesus, Who art the living Bread, help us to live by eating of the Bread of Life, and so having our souls renewed in grace unto eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Lord, Who hast promised to come and sup with those who ask Thee, come and break bread with us to-day, and we shall know of a surety that it is the Lord.

We have eaten of the bread of the world, and it has not satisfied our souls. And with hunger in our hearts we turn again to Thee. O Bread of Life, come and minister to the needs of every needy soul before Thee at this Table : through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Dispense Bread.

Prayer before dispensing Wine.—

O Christ, Whose blood, shed for our sins, is here in symbol in this cup ; we thank Thee for all that it means to us.

We thank Thee that it speaks of full atonement,—that there remaineth no more to be done,—that what we could not do for ourselves, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, did for us on the Cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Christ of the thorn-crowned head,—teach us that when the thorns are in our lives, and we too seem to sweat great drops of blood, our lives are being crowned and our souls blest with a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, than had otherwise been possible to us.

O Christ of the pierced hand,—put Thou Thy hand upon our lives, to open up the paths which we should tread, or to close the doors which we should not enter. For it is by

guiding mercies that we are led, and by preventing mercies that we are kept safe.

O Christ of the wounded feet,—when our way is long and rough, and when our feet are wearied in their going; help us to feel the beat of Thy feet upon our lonely roads, and to realise that we are not alone, for the Companion of the solitary way is moving by our side,—even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dispense Wine.

Prayer—

Lord it is good for us to be here.

Good, because we have dwelt in the past, not only with its memories of weakness and of failure, but with its memories also of loving kindness and tender mercies, of encouragement and strength, of forgiveness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Good, because we have lived in the present, beside those symbols which speak of never-failing love, of never-dying affection, written for us and sealed unto us in the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Good, because we have looked to the future; and in spite of all our fears we know that the love of God will follow us all the way, and that the goodness and mercy of the Lord will be about us to the end.

Past and present and future, all combine with one voice to proclaim Thy faithfulness, and Thy wonderful love to the children of men. And we would go from this Table, taking with us a great encouragement for the work of the days that lie ahead of us, and seeking to live in them more nobly on account of what we have seen and heard to-day.

Remember any who are not with us.

Bless very specially the young Communicants. Hear their vows; have regard unto their ways; and lead them to the heights that they may obtain all needed grace for this world, and finally may inherit eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Offering.

Benediction.

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR COMMUNION

6

Scripture Sentences—

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. He shall not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee shall not slumber.

He shall give his angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways; they shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

The very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God!

Fear not therefore; ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Prayer—

O God, without Whom no service, however beautiful, can reach and touch our hearts,—be with us this morning,

lest, in the multiplicity of other things, we miss Thy message, and fail to see Thee among us, as we wait within these hallowed walls.

O God, with Whom the poorest service becomes instinct with life ; and the most stammering of tongues can speak plainly ;—be with us now, we pray Thee, that something of the joy of the Lord may fill our hearts ; that something of the peace of God may flow through this service ; and that something of the pleasure of the Lord may prosper in our hands to-day,—

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise Psalm xxiii.

Exodus xx, (1-17) : *Matthew v*, (1-12).

Prayer—

O Lord Jesus, Who didst found Thy Church for the relief and the security of the pilgrims on the upward way,—we thank Thee for all that Thy Church has been to Thy people throughout the centuries, and for all that She still is.

We thank Thee for all the relief that She has brought to the pilgrims on the way :—

For relief from the burden of care, ministered unto them by the assurance that " your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things ", and that " my God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

For relief from the burden of perplexity, brought to us through the Church's message, that God is greater than our hearts, and knoweth all things ; and that He will never lead us where we cannot follow.

For relief from the burden of sin, through the blessed assurance which the Church gives that " the blood of Jesus

Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin", and that those who come to Jesus, will never be cast out.

O God, our Father, baptize all those who minister in the Churches, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with power,—that through their preaching relief may be brought to burdened spirits, and rest may be infused into weary hearts: —through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee too, for all the security which Thy Church has brought to the pilgrims on the way ;—

For security in times of danger, brought to human hearts through the Church's revelation of One who is still an hiding place from the winds and a covert from the tempest.

For security in days of temptation, brought to our hearts through the message of the Church that the " Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations " ; and that He will not suffer us to be tempted above what we are able to bear ; but will, with the temptation also provide a way of escape, that we may be able to bear it.

O God, our Father,—remember those who are preaching to-day, and baptize them with Thy Spirit, that they may not miss any desirous soul, or leave any timid soul a prey to the wars without and the fears within, that have so often kept them in unrest. Grant that to all Thy preachers there may be given a message of such point and power, that there will come to every listening heart a glow and a warmth that shall accompany us throughout the succeeding days of this week, and shall transfigure all our experience for us,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

" Our Father, which art in heaven," etc.

Intimations.

Praise, Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Sermon.

Praise, Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Dispense Sacrament—

Read Warrant, I Cor. xi, 23-29.

Prayer—

O Christ, Who, as the true and living Bread, hast offered Thy life to satisfy the world's hunger, and to still its unrest; —grant that we, as we take this bread into our hands and lips, may take Thee anew into our hearts; and so by Thee may be strengthened with might, and made able to endure. Grant that we, as we taste Thee, O Thou living Bread, may be fully satisfied, and may turn away from all the things of the world in the spirit of surrender and consecration. Grant that we, as we feed our souls upon Thee, may receive, here and now, of that eternal life, which Thou dost give to those, who in faith and in love receive Thee, and accept Thee as their Saviour.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dispense Bread.

Prayer—

O Lord Jesus,—we who this day are privileged to taste the symbols of Thy Passion, and to look through them upon Him whom we have pierced, would pray Thee that through the blood of Jesus Christ we might be made fit, not only to sit at the Table of Communion and to enjoy each other's fellowship; but so might we be cleansed by that Blood, and so might we be kept, that in the end we shall be able to sit down at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, in the company of saints and angels of all time, and in the closest fellowship with Thee,—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. We ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.

Dispense Wine.

Praise. " By Christ redeemed, in Christ restored."

Table Address.

Prayer—

Our Father, we thank Thee for the atmosphere of this Feast, and we pray that it will make it easier for us to witness a good confession in the days that are to come.

We thank Thee for the revelation of this Feast ; and we pray that it will make us sensible of the abiding presence of God in all life's common experiences.

We thank Thee for the fellowship of this Feast ; and we pray that it will draw us into kindlier relationships with our brethren who bear the name of Christ, and serve Him in His Church.

Bless our young communicants, and watch over them. Be specially with them in hours of temptation and trial.

Bless those who were not with us to-day at the Feast, and manifest Thyself to them. Be specially near to any who are compassed about with sickness or sorrow.

Remember all who this day, in this, or in other Churches, have had a vision of the Cross of Christ. Keep them near the Cross that its influences may guide and direct their going.

Remember very specially our Missionaries, who in distant lands and among alien races are seeking to spread the good news of the Kingdom. May the Lord's work prosper in their hands, and the Master's Kingdom spread as they go.

Bless our country in all her interests. Restore her flagging pulses by infusing into them that " life more abundant " which Jesus came to give.

Bless the King and all his Royal Household ; the Prime Minister and all his legislators ; and hasten the time when a passion for righteousness shall fill the heart of the Nation.

We ask it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Praise, Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Offering.

Benediction,—

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR COMMUNION

7

Scripture Sentences—

Fear thou not, for I am with thee : be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee ; yea, I will help thee ; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

For I, the Lord thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not ; I will help thee.

For a small moment have I forsaken thee ; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord, thy Redeemer.

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.

Prayer—

O God, Who art rich in mercy unto all that call upon Thee,—wilt Thou in mercy look on Thy waiting people. We are conscious that if Thou wert swift to mark iniquity, none of us would dare approach Thy Holy Table of Communion. For we have sinned against Thee, and in us there is no good thing. We are conscious that if Thou didst not delight in mercy, Thou would'st not welcome us to Thy Table. For we have all come short of the glory of God.

We are conscious that if Thy mercies did not endure for ever, our ever constant sins would have hidden Thy face from us long ago.

O merciful Father, cleanse us in Thy mercy, as we assemble at Thy Feast of Love. Let there be no sin between us and Thee this morning to cloud the vision that these silent symbols should bring. So cleanse us to-day that we shall be able to see Thy Cross, where full atonement has been made for all our guilty past, and where assurance is given us of inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Be it unto us according to our faith. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise, Psalm cxvi, 13-19.

Read Psalm xci.

Prayer—

O God, who forgivest all our iniquities, wilt Thou wash us in the Blood of the Lamb, that we may be whiter than snow ; wilt Thou cast our sins behind Thy back, that Thou mayest remember them no more ; wilt Thou cast our sins into the depths of the sea, that they may not rise in condemnation before Thee ; wilt Thou nail them to the Cross, and so take them out of the way. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who healest all our diseases,—wilt Thou heal us of whatever disease afflicts us to-day. Touch with Thy cool hand the feverishness of our souls. Lay Thy healing finger on the leprosy of our sin. Speak a word of dismissal to the palsy of our indifference. And help us to appear before Thee renewed and whole. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who redeemest our life from destruction,—wilt Thou turn away our feet from every road of sin and death:

wilt Thou turn aside our eyes from any sight that might hurt our souls; wilt Thou turn aside our hearts from any ways where we might faint and fall; and wilt Thou turn aside our hands from any actions that would mar our high ideals. Redeem us from destruction, O God, our Redeemer. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who crownest us with loving kindness and with tender mercies,—we thank Thee for all the mercies and the love of Thy gracious hand; for the loving kindness that has spared us, and led us to this time, and for all the tender mercies that we have experienced on the way: for the loving kindness that has permitted us to come again to the Communion Table; and for all the tender mercies that the Holy Feast reveals: for the loving kindness that has spread the Table so richly for our souls, and for all the tender mercies that have made it possible for us to sit here, and to eat and to drink,—we give Thee thanks, O God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Touch our weak wills that they may be strengthened; our dim eyes that they may see; our dull hearts that they may understand. Bring us to-day into the secret place of the Most High. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise, Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Address.

Praise, Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Read the Warrant.

Prayer—

O Christ, Who, through the veil, that is to say, Thy flesh, hast consecrated for us a new and living way whereby we may enter into the Holy of Holies, and look upon the Face of God,—hear us, we pray Thee as we thank Thee for all the

love that faced the shame of the Cross and its awful agony on our behalf.

Through the rending of the veil, we would look to-day further than the Holy of Holies, even into the very heart of God Himself. And we thank Thee, O Christ, for the love and mercy that we find there,—no condemnation for them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit,—no accusation before the Great White Throne—" Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect ? "—no separation from the heart of the Eternal, " Who shall separate us from the love of God ? "

As we take the broken bread in our hands and into our lips, we would see again this wonder of Thy love,—that miracle of Thy grace,—that open door to the heart of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dispense Bread.

Prayer before dispensing Wine—

O Christ, Whose blood, whose red heart blood is symbolised before us in this Sacramental Wine,—we thank Thee that it speaks to us of a Fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness, where our sins are washed away, and we appear pure and spotless in Thy Holy sight.

We thank Thee that that blood speaks better things than the blood of Abel. For the blood of Abel speaks of God's love toward a righteous man, but the blood of Christ speaks of God's love to sinful men. " Peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die ; but God commendeth His love for us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

O Christ, Who thought us worth dying for, even while we were at our worst, we bless Thee for the confidence that Thou didst have in us ; and we pray that we may shew Thee

by our lives and by our work that that confidence has not been misplaced.

O Christ, Who wore the Crown of Thorns, we crown Thee here and now the Lord of all our life.

O Christ, Who knew the pain of crucifixion, we would crucify our flesh, with its affections and lusts, and try to present our bodies unto Thee, a reasonable service.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dispense Wine.

Prayer of Thanksgiving.

O God, we thank Thee for all who to-day have taken part in this Feast of Love : and we pray that Thy blessing may go with them from the Table, throughout this day, and throughout all the following week. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For those who have come here often, and have often been refreshed. We thank Thee for their testimony, and pray Thee that it may abide.

For those who have come here with sore hearts. We thank Thee for their courage in coming, and for the faith they had that they would meet Thee here.

For those who have come here for the first time. We thank Thee for their decision ; we pray that the atmosphere of the Feast may chasten and sanctify and sweeten their lives, and keep them near to Thy side.

For any who are here as strangers. We thank Thee that none are strangers at the Lord's Table.

For dear ones who are not with us ;—some who are far away ; some who are ailing ; some who are distressed in

heart or mind ; some who have duties that keep them from their place at the Table. We thank Thee that Thy hand is big enough to reach them all ; Thy heart to love them all; Thy heaven to hold them all. O give them blessing, and may they feel to-day that we who have been at the Lord's Table, have been holding fellowship with them.

Deal very tenderly with the sick and the sorrowing. Heal and restore them where possible. Remember those who are appointed to die, and prepare them to open their eyes in Paradise. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise. Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Offering.

Benediction.

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR COMMUNION

8

Scripture Sentences.

Remember these, O Jacob and Israel ; for thou art my servant : I have formed thee ; thou art my servant : O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud, thy sins : return unto me, for I have redeemed thee.

Sing, O ye heavens, for the Lord hath done it : shout, ye lower parts of the earth : break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein : for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel.

Prayer—

O God, our Father, Who everywhere art present with Thy worshipping people,—be present with us, we beseech Thee,

as, leaving behind us our homes and our toil, we come together with one accord, to seek Thy face, and to pay our vows,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who hast taught our eyes to see God in the lily of the fields, and in the birds of the air, and in the common duties of the common day,—help us this morning, we pray Thee, to see the face of the Divine in the common acts of our united worship; and in the sacramental elements of this Feast, make us to see the passion, and to feel the pardon of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Spirit of God, Who of old didst bring order out of confusion and chaos,—brood over us this morning, we pray Thee, that our entire service may be penetrated with Thy divine atmosphere; that all our differing wills and personalities may be moulded into complete accord with Thine; and that we shall feel ourselves to be but one family, sitting down at the Table of a common Father,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise. Psalm xxiii.

Read Matthew xi, 25, etc.; Eph. iii, 14, etc.; Phil. iii, 8-15.

Prayer.

O God, we thank Thee that the mercies of God are from everlasting to everlasting unto them that fear Thee. For had it not been so, we scarce had dared to take our place before Thee in this Church to-day.

So many hands of ours have done what we ought not to have done!—have reached out to touch and to take what God Himself had forbidden!

So many feet of ours have wandered into unholy places, and have not kept by the straight and narrow way!

So many eyes of ours have turned with wistfulness to the things seen and temporal, and have been blind to the things unseen and eternal!

O God of everlasting mercy, blot from our souls to-day all sin, and take away all our consciousness of sin, through that same Jesus, whose forgiving love we celebrate in symbol, and enjoy in fact this morning.

O God, we thank Thee that Thine invitation includes all those who labour and are heavy laden, as well as all those who bow their knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we pray Thee, seek out every tired spirit this morning, and speak a message of encouragement to them; seek out every disappointed soul this morning, and become to them more than the thing which Thou hast withheld or denied; seek out every lonely spirit, and teach them from the heart to say, "I am not alone, for my Father is with me!" Seek out every fearful soul, who sees a crisis approaching, and fears to meet it: whisper to such the old message of assurance, "My grace is sufficient for thee; my strength is made perfect in weakness!" O all-sufficient grace of God! envelope every soul before Thee this morning, and speak a message to every sort and condition of heart within this Church. None are so weak that Thou canst not strengthen them: none so strong that they do not need Thy strength: none are so glad that Thou canst not deepen their joy; and none so sad that for them Thou hast no words of sympathy to-day.

God of our fathers, bless our Fatherland. We thank Thee for her faith in righteousness and justice. And if at times she has had to write out the confession of her faith in the blood of her bravest men, we pray that Thou wouldst make us worthier of the sacrifice thus made for us.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Praise. Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Sermon.

Praise. Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Read Warrant, I Cor., xi, 23-28.

Prayer before distribution of Bread—

O Christ, Who didst not withhold Thy Body, that we, through Thy bitter agony and sacrifice might enter into life,—inspire us with that life, we pray Thee, as we touch the Broken Body of our Blessed Saviour. We, who have been saved from death by the broken bodies of our sons, and fathers, and lovers, would pray now that through Thy Broken Body we might enter into a large experience of liberty and peace.

O Christ, Whose hands were pierced by the cruel nails of our sin and shame,—touch us with the healing of Thy pierced hands to-day, in order that we may be made whole.

O Christ, Whose side was pierced by the spear-wound of our ingratitude,—help us to feel our debt to Thee this morning, and to be driven to our knees before Thee, to thank Thee for thy love and pity.

Our Christ, Whose brow was pierced by the thorns of our pride and rebellion,—accept our humble submission now, we beseech Thee, as we lay ourselves before Thee, for mercy and renewal,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Dispense Bread.

Prayer before distribution of Wine—

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, in Thy blood, hast opened a fountain for sin and for uncleanness,—accept the thanks of every one before Thee here for all Thy goodness and for all Thy love. We thank Thee that we are clean to-day through the blood of Jesus Christ,—that there is for them no condemnation in Thy presence; no accusation before the Great White Throne; and no separation from the love of God. Help us to take full advantage of thy great mercies towards us, so that out of Thy fulness we may all receive, and through Thy mercy we may all be forgiven.

Dispense Wine.

Prayer of Thanksgiving—

Lord, it is good for us to be here; and now, in the atmosphere of fellowship and love, we would seek to dedicate to Thee our three tabernacles, body, soul, and spirit, that they might be fit places for Thee to dwell in, and for us to serve in.

Accept the Tabernacle of our bodies, we beseech Thee. Help us to keep outside of them anything that defileth, and whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie,—that our sacrifice may be without blemish, holy, acceptable in Thy sight,—a reasonable service to the Lord, our God.

Accept the tabernacle of our soul, we beseech Thee, that our minds may be steadfastly set toward whatsoever things are good and true, and pure, and of good report. Help us to see in vision the ideal of our Blessed Master, and through good report and ill, through days of sunshine and of storm, help us to move onward towards that Ideal, pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Accept, we pray Thee, the tabernacle of our spirits, that in the secret place of our life we may seek the things that Thou dost seek, and love the things that Thou dost love. Help us earnestly to desire the best things, to covet the best gifts, till men and women see in our actions, and feel in our thoughts the very marks of the Lord Jesus.

Hear our prayers this morning on behalf of those who have not been able to keep us company at the Feast. For any who are absent through sickness,—that Thou wilt be their Great Physician, and heal them, and bring them back to our fellowship. For any who are absent through sorrow, that Thou wouldst put on them Thy blessed hand of comfort, and bring to their homes, as to their hearts, the Holy Ghost, the Comforter. For any who are absent through business,—that Thou wouldst work alongside of them in

their tasks. If any are absent through carelessness,—O Christ, draw nigh to them ; shew them what they are missing ; and create in them an hunger for the word of God, and for the grace of eternal life.

Bless those who are with us this morning for the first time, —our young communicants, or any strangers, who may be making common cause with us here. Especially be with the young members. Satisfy the longing of their souls, we pray Thee. Fill them with Thine own blessed Spirit ; and give them to feel that Thou art feeding them with the finest of the wheat. Make them happy in their fellowship with us. Help them to feel that they are one with Thy Church throughout the world. And so do Thou dispose their hearts and their wishes, that throughout all their lives they may be accepted in Thy sight, and may live to the praise and the credit of the Lord, their God.

Bless any who may be present for the last time. We know not the message of each day as it comes. One day may call us to render our account to God before another Communion season comes round. O prepare us for the change ; for the abundance of the revelation ; for the nearer vision of God ; for the sweet fellowship of Heaven.

Now, Father, if anything be troubling any of Thy people here ; if anything be worrying, or distracting them even in this blessed hour of communion ;—help them to make Thee their confidant,—to whisper all their story into Thine ear, and from Thee to derive all needed comfort and assurance, —through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise. Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Offering.

Benediction.

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR COMMUNION

9

Scripture Sentences.

The preaching of the Cross is to them that perish, foolishness ; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God.

We preach Christ crucified . . . the power of God, and the wisdom of God . . . not with the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit of God and of power.

I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me ; and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Prayer.

For this cause we bow our knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named ;

That He would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man ;

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith,—that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

Praise. Psalm xxiii.

Read. Luke xxii, 7-20.

Prayer.

O God, Who hast enjoined upon all Thy servants, who would worthily partake of the cup of blessing, that they should examine themselves, and so eat of that bread, and drink of that cup;—wilt Thou draw nigh unto us, as we wait in Thy presence this morning, and wilt Thou help us to examine ourselves in the white light that streams from the face of God.

We would examine our hearts. We would lay them alongside of the heart of Jesus Christ; and we would know that we are like the disciples, when Thou wast led away to the Cross,—who only followed Thee afar off. Our hearts are not holy toward God. We have desired the world and the flesh; and have forgotten Thee. O Christ, Whose heart was always in harmony with the heart of God; and whose pulses always beat true to the throbbings of that divine heart,—forgive, we pray Thee, our defects and failures, and keep through Thine own power the hearts we now hand over to Thy care,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We would examine our minds. And we find that our thoughts have oftentimes been taken up with the vain things of life,—with the unclean things,—with the impure things. We have allowed our thoughts to run outward to the far country, with its pleasures and its lusts, instead of fixing our thoughts upon things above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. O Christ, Whose thoughts are always clean and lovely, and shining in the very face of God, the Father,—forgive our foolish thoughts, we pray Thee; recall our wandering imaginations; and help us to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We would examine our lives. And there at once we find ourselves face to face with our sins. There are sins of omission and neglect. There are sins of commission and activity. There are sins of speech ; and there are sins of silence. There are sins of blindness ; and there are sins of vision. There are sins of harshness ; and there are sins of self indulgence. Tried by Thy standards, O Jesus, we come infinitely short. Weighed in Thy balances, we are found sadly wanting. Seen under Thy white light, we are dull, and drab, and grey.

If Thou shouldst be swift to mark our sins, we could not stand before Thee. But Thou hast promised to forgive, when we make confession. Forgive us, O Christ, when we wait before Thee. The Book of our life is spread open to thy sight. O Thou, who knowest all,—forgive all, we pray Thee, that we may be worthy partakers of Thy Holy Feast to-day.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Praise. Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Sermon. Luke xxii, 29.

Read the Warrant, I Cor. xi, 23-29.

Prayer before distribution of Bread.

O Christ, Who in the commonest of earthly things,—a piece of broken bread,—didst see a vision of the Cross and of the sacrificial love of God ; grant that we, as we take the broken Bread into our hands, may feel that we have come under the shadow of Calvary, and by the Cross have been turned into newness of life. Grant that we, in this common Bread, may have the assurance that God's heart is still towards his children, and that neither death nor life can separate us from His love. Grant that we, as we take this Bread, and eat it, may take again our Lord Jesus to be our

personal Saviour and Friend; and may renew our Covenant with Him, as we sit in silence within these sacred walls.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Dispense Bread.

Prayer before Distribution of Wine.

O Christ, Who hast given unto us exceeding great and gracious gifts,—we thank Thee for them all;—for those that we are very conscious of; and for those also of which we have been all unconscious; for those that have uplifted our lives upon the wings of aspiration; and for those that have made us bow the knee in love and gratitude, or in repentance and shame. Very specially do we thank Thee now for the gifts of life and of forgiveness that came to us through the shedding of Thine own blood, and for the unchanging love of God, of which that Blood is the perpetual guarantee,—"Scarcely for a righteous man would one die . . . but God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us". O Christ, Whose Blood hath commended the love of God toward us, and hath opened to us a new and living way to the Eternal heart,—bring us,—here and now—under the sway of that divine heart, and by the dominion of its sway over us, loose us from the power, as also from the guilt of all our sins,

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Dispense Wine.

Prayer of Thanksgiving.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward us! How shall we thank Thee, who hast again crowned us with Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy! Thou hast not dealt with us after our deserts, nor rewarded us according to our unworthiness; but in great mercy Thou hast visited us, and hast permitted us again to feast in Thy

rich banqueting-house, and at Thine own Table, where Thou Thyself wast Host.

Bless all who have been at Thy Table to-day. Help us to remember that we have been Thy guests; and grant that we may take from the Feast something of its sacred influence, so that, as we return to the common ways of the street, of the Office, of the Mill, we may have that quiet dignity of mien that belongs to those who have met Thee face to face within Thy Holy House.

Remember those who are not with us. May there be some portion of the Feast reserved for them also, O Lord. Especially remember any who were detained because of sickness, or of duty, or of circumstances over which they did not have control.

Those in Hospital, who are weary waiting.

Those in the homes, who are laid aside by sickness.

The Mothers, who have to wait beside the little children.

Doctors and Nurses, who have to tend the weak.

Remember very specially the young Communicants,—those who to-day have publicly professed their faith in Jesus, and have kept tryst with Him at the Table of Communion. Grant unto them all, O God, that they may grow in grace; that they may be rooted, grounded, stablished in Jesus; that they may live daily in the secret place of the Most High; that they may go from strength to strength here below, and that every one of them may at last appear in Zion before Thee, to be welcomed with the Master's "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Praise, Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Offering.

Benediction.

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR COMMUNION

10

Scripture Sentences.

Son, thou art ever with me; and all that I have, is thine.

Doubtless thou art our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not.

Fear not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.

For I, the Lord thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground.

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake; and will not remember thy sins.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out.

Prayer—

Spirit of God, Whose kind and gentle presence in the Church and in the heart, has brought us into the secret place of vision and of revelation,—breathe on us this morning, we pray Thee, and make us sensible that God is here. We have brought into this Church the symbols of the Saviour's passion; and we pray that Thy presence, Thy living presence, may help us to see and to feel the passion that they represent. Put a tongue into these dumb symbols, that they may speak to us of Calvary. And so do Thou deal with every heart before Thee here to-day, that every one of us shall stand beside the Cross; shall see in it the work of our sins; shall draw from it forgiveness for all our past; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise. Psalm xxiii.

Read Exodus xx, 1-17 ; *Matt. vi*, 24-34.

Prayer—

O God, Who hast brought us into Thy banqueting house, grant that we may all feel that Thou art welcoming us to the fellowship of Thy Table and of Thy Feast. Give us a sense of the sweetness of the Feast,—when, with Thine own hands Thou wilt break the Bread of Life unto us, and distribute it to our needs. Give us a sense of the bountifulness of Thy House, knowing that all that Thou hast, is put at our disposal, for our help, for our strengthening, and for our most holy faith. Give us a sense of the love that haunts Thy House, and Thy Feast, that our fellowship may be with one another, and that we are surrounded by a love, whose length and breadth and depth and height surpass all human understanding.

In order that there may be no barrier to such fellowship with Thee and with one another, we would make confession of all our sins, praying that, being confessed, they may be forgiven through the blood of the Cross. We know that we have broken Thy laws ; that we have betrayed Thy trust ; that we have sinned against Thy love. We know that we have smirched our own ideals ; that we have broken our own vows ; that we have come short, infinitely short of our own aspirations. We would lay open before Thy kind and careful eye the whole page of our life's history ; and in so doing, would remind Thee of Thy promise to us, " Whoso covereth his sins, shall not prosper ; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them, shall find mercy ". We make the confession, and we ask for the mercy,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Whatever voices there are, that are raised in accusation against us, do Thou silence them, O Christ, by the verdict

of Calvary,—" I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgression,—and as a cloud thy sin."

Whatever " handwriting of ordinances " may be written against us in the Book of Judgment, do Thou take it out of the way, " nailing it to the Cross ", according to the promise, —through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Whatever misgivings arise in our own hearts through the bitter memories of Conscience, do Thou still with Thine own words, as Thou didst still the storm on the Lake of Galilee ; and do Thou whisper to our hearts, " Peace be still ", that there may be a great calm within us, as we sit down at Thy Table.

Give us a spirit of longing ; for Thou hast promised to satisfy the longing soul, and to fill the hungry soul with goodness.

Give us the spirit of humility ; for Thou hast promised to take up Thy dwelling within the humble and contrite heart.

Give us the spirit of expectation ; for " they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength ; they shall mount up on wings as eagles ; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint ".

We associate with us at the feast those who are not here, —our loved ones everywhere, who are dear to us ;—the departed friends whose names are fragrant still ;—the bereaved, who sup with sorrow to-day ;—the mourners, whose eyes are dim. We associate with us those who are on holiday,—those who are on the sea in ships,—those who are in distant lands. Let them all sit down to-day under Thy shadow with great delight, and let Thy banner over them be love,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Intimations.

Praise. Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Sermon, I Cor. xi, 23.

Praise. Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Read Warrant, I Cor. xi, 23-28.

Prayer before distribution of Bread.

O Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that in Thy Broken Body we can see at once Thy claim upon us and our claim upon Thee. Thou hast a claim upon us, for Thou hast suffered for us. And in the mark of the nails in Thy hands and feet, in the spear-wound in Thy side, and in Thy thorn-crowned brow, we know that Thou dost claim us, for Thou hast borne this suffering for us. And we would hear Thy voice in Thy suffering, calling to us to take up our Cross, and follow Thee ;—to deny ourselves, to forsake our sin, and to come, whilst Thou art shewing us that Thou wast wounded for our transgressions.

We thank Thee too, that in those pierced hands, we read the acknowledgment of our claim upon Thee. It was for us that Thou didst suffer. And so we bring ourselves, our sins, our sorrows, our failures : we leave ourselves at Thy feet, and we ask for Thy full pardon,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dispense Bread.

Prayer before distribution of Wine.

O Christ, Who through Thy blood, hast opened unto us a new and living way into the secret place of the Most High, —do Thou bring us there to-day and now, with our hearts purged from every evil thing, and our conscience void of offence in Thy sight.

We would take our places before Thee as those who have been washed, and who have been made fit to be partakers of Thy love and fellowship. We claim our entrance through the blood of the Cross and we would stand in Thy presence

with no accusation between us and Thee. Thanks be unto God for this joyous entrance into life more abundant. Thanks be unto God for that power and grace which enable us always to triumph in Christ Jesus. Thanks be unto God, who hath called unto this fellowship men and women of ordinary walk and conversation, from the common walks of life, from the common round of toil. Be with us, as through the blood of Christ we claim our privilege,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Dispense Wine.

Prayer.

O God, Who art the Master of this feast of love ; we thank Thee for the quickening of heart and spirit that have come to us, as we tarried here with Thee. And we pray that the sweet influences of this fellowship may not leave us, when we quit this Church, and when we return to our homes, and when we go out again to toil. But grant that each one here may so ally himself and herself with Jesus Christ,—who, all unseen, may yet be present everywhere,—that we shall feel that He is with us in our homes, making them sweeter and better,—that He is with us at our toil, giving it worth and dignity, however humble it may be. We would take Him with us into all our temptations that we may become more than conquerors in every evil that besets us.

Remember all who have recently joined the Church, especially who have joined as young communicants. Grant that the good profession which they have made this day, may give them to feel that they belong to Jesus,—that they have definitely committed themselves to His service, and that they are bound to Him by the cords of a deathless love.

Bless all who are thinking about us to-day. There is enough of good at Thy Table to supply all their need. Be it unto them according to their faith,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Hallow unto us every memory of the good men and women who have been of our company, but who now are present at the feast in Heaven. Help us to follow their faithful footsteps: help us to approach their high ideals: help us to keep alight the fires which they have kindled,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Bless our King and all his household with the precious blessings of the King of Kings.

Bless our Country and all her Ministers. Make her great in righteousness, in justice, and in brotherhood.

Bless our preachers everywhere, and help them to shew forth Christ; our teachers, that they may train the children in righteousness: our doctors and nurses, that they may have the healing touch of the Good Physician; all leaders of our thought, that they may let that mind be in them, which was also in Christ Jesus; and all our toilers, that in their toil they may stand alongside of the Carpenter of Nazareth,—who is Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!

Praise. Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Offering.

Benediction.

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR COMMUNION

II

Scripture Sentences—

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

And the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come"; and let him

that heareth, say, "Come"; and let him that is athirst, come; and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us; therefore let us eat this feast . . . with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Prayer.

O Christ, our Passover, Who once was sacrificed for us;—give us grace, we pray Thee, that we may learn the lessons of Thy sacrifice, and here and now may be drawn into the presence of the Cross. May we remember how that sacrifice speaks to us of the exceeding sinfulness of our sin; and of the infinite and eternal love of God.

As we see our sins in the light of Thy Cross, we would turn from them with shame and loathing, and would pray Thee to give us the mastery over sin, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

As we see thine infinite love expressed in the Cross of Calvary, we would lay aside all our guilty fears, and would come forward boldly to the Throne of Grace, that there we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Praise, Psalm cxxxiii.

Read Ex. xx, 1-17 : *I John iv*, 9-11 : 18-21.

Prayer—

O God, our Father, Who hast expressed thy love toward us in the gift of Thine only Son, Jesus Christ, to be to us a

Lord and Saviour ;—we thank Thee for all that He means to the lives of those who know Him, and for all the enrichment that He has brought with Him to these lives.

We thank Thee for the revelation of Christ,—that He shewed us God, and let us see into the heart of the Eternal, —revealing to us that that heart was infinite in its pity, and ceaseless in its passion to save the souls of men. O give us grace to trust that revelation of love, and to leave ourselves to-day in Thy hands. We know that we are unworthy ; but from the revelation of Jesus, we are sure that Thou art looking, and longing, and waiting till we put our trust in Thee.

We thank Thee for the words of Christ,—for all their tenderness and for all their wisdom. Wooed by their tenderness, we would draw unto Thee in the full assurance of faith : won by their wisdom, we would turn away from all earthly conceits, and would sit down at Thy feet, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for the life of Christ ; and we ask that Thou wouldst give us grace to try ourselves by its standards, and to judge ourselves by its ideals. We have seen in Him what our human flesh is capable of doing and being. We have seen how human flesh may become the Temple of the living God. Help us to live as those in whom Thy Holy Spirit dwells as a gracious, willing guest,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for the death of Christ. We find that hardship is easier to bear since He faced it ; that pain is softened, since He endured it ; that even Death becomes a Friend, since He passed through it in His own person. We thank Thee for the Life and Immortality brought to light through the death of Jesus ; and we pray that we may claim our portion in that eternal life,

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Praise, Psalm ciii.

Sermon.

Praise. Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Read the Warrant, I Cor. xi, 23-29.

Prayer before dispensing the Bread—

O Lord Jesus, Who didst take Bread, and break it, and give to thy disciples,—we thank Thee that Thou art to us the Giver of all good and perfect gifts,—especially of that Bread of Life, whereof if any man eat, he shall live for ever. We thank Thee for that Living Bread, and, as we take into our hands and into our lips the symbol of the Bread of Life, we would take anew the Christ to be our Saviour and our Friend. We would renew our covenant with Thee by the rededication of our souls to Thy service. We would enter anew into fellowship with Thee by accepting Thee again as our Lord and Master.

O Christ, the Bread of Life,—Who knowest all the heart hunger of men, and all their need,—draw near, we pray Thee, to satisfy every longing heart before Thee, and to fill each hungry soul with goodness. We ask it in Thy name. Amen.

Dispense the Bread.

Prayer before dispensing Wine.

O Christ, Who for our sins wast crucified on Calvary; whose Body was broken for us, and whose Blood was shed on our behalf,—we would look upon Thy sacred Passion now, that we may not only be cleansed from every spot and stain through the Blood of the Cross; but also that we may be led to turn away from the sin which brought to Thee such sorrow, and which broke Thy Heart upon the Cross.

We would see Thy wounded Head,—wounded and bleeding with the cruel thorns,—and recognizing that the Crown of Thorns has made Thee King in the dominion of sorrow and of pain, we would cast all our sorrows at Thy feet, and lay our burdens down before Thee. We would realise that through these sorrows and these burdens Thou hast called us to be partakers with Thee in the Kingdom of pain, and to fill up in our own flesh that which is behind the sufferings of Christ.

We would see Thy wounded Hands. And in them we would read the title to our full forgiveness. We would lay before Thee all our sins; for we cannot hide them from Thy kind and careful glance. And when our own heart would condemn us for our sins, we would point to the hands of Christ, and would assure our hearts that since He was wounded for our transgressions, there is therefore now no condemnation to those who trust Him.

We would look at Thy pierced side. And when we remember that from that side there flowed both blood and water, we would recognize in that blood the eternal love of the divine heart; and in that water the assurance that our Conscience shall be purged from dead works, and shall be clean and pure in the sight of God. "What the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Dispense the Wine.

Praise, Psalm xxiii.

Prayer.

Follow with thy blessing, O Lord, these sacred services in which we have been engaged, and let the memories and

inspiration of this Feast follow us throughout the days that are to come.

Remember any who were not present
Through weakness, or pain, or sorrow.
Through negligence, or carelessness.
Because of the holiday season.
Remember those who have recently joined our fellowship.
Especially the young Communicants.
Remember those in the Session who were prevented from coming to-day.
Bless us during our absence on holiday.

Address the Children,—"The Covenant Card."

Praise, Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Offering.

Benediction.

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR COMMUNION

12

Scripture Sentences—

What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? They cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee. If I would declare and speak of them they are more than can be numbered.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all his benefits.

Prayer—

O God, Whose love is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, before all time, and outlasting all change,—help us to feel that we are surrounded by that love as by an atmosphere, while we wait in Thy presence to-day.

Help us to realise that we are here at the bidding of divine love. No merit of our own ; no goodness, or grace of ours, has brought us into this place of privilege and peace. Thine own eternal love has brought us into the Banqueting House, has spread our Table and has invited us to eat abundantly and to be satisfied with the goodness of Thy House, even of Thy Holy Place.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise, Psalm cxvi, 13-19.

Read II Cor. iv.

Prayer—

O God, our Father, we give Thee thanks for all the treasures of widsom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And as we wait before Thee here to-day, we pray that out of His fulness we might be able to draw, and from His treasury we might be enriched ; and through His goodness we might be satisfied and filled.

Give us wisdom of the head, that we may know those things which are most surely believed among us. We are too easily carried about with every wind of doctrine,—too easily led by the wisdom of the wise and the understanding of the prudent. Give us wisdom of the head, that we may know Him that is true, and may follow wherever He leads,—

Give us wisdom of the heart, that we may trust Him fully, and leave our lives entirely to His care. If we have trusted in our weak human nature, help us to turn from self to Christ. If we have trusted in our fellow men and women, help us to turn from man to God. If we have trusted in uncertain riches, help us to turn to Him who is never uncertain, and to be filled with His riches and grace.

Give us wisdom of the tongue, that we may set forth Jesus with no uncertain words, that our lisping, stammer-

ing tongues may be touched as if with a live coal from off Thy Holy Altar,—that when we speak of Jesus among our fellow men, they may not miss Him, they may not misunderstand Him, but may see Him, and be satisfied with His goodness.

Give us wisdom of the spirit, that from all lower lives and desires, we may turn away to Thee.
From all life's mean and petty things.
From all life's worries and vexations.
From all life's aching and toil.
From all life's giving and getting.
From all life's folly and sin.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Intimations.

Praise, Psalm ciii, 1-5.

Sermon.

Praise, Paraphrase xxxv, 3-6.

Read the Warrant. I Cor. xi, 23, etc.

Prayer before dispensing Bread—

O God, our Father, we thank Thee for all good and gracious gifts of Thy Providence and bounty. For the bread of daily life, of which we have already partaken, and by which our mortal bodies have been strengthened and refreshed. And above all, for the Bread of Life, by which our immortal souls are revived and encouraged in Jesus Christ, our Lord. When we sit down at our own tables, we are one family in a common home. As we sit down to-day to eat the Bread of Life in this House, may we feel that we are indeed one family in Jesus, owning the same Father and the same Home. Give us that family feeling this morning, as we sit down together at our Father's Feast.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dispense the Bread.

Prayer before dispensing Wine—

O God, our Father, Who, by the blood of Thy Beloved Son, hast consecrated for us a new and living way into the holiest of all, grant, we pray Thee, that all who will touch and taste the symbols of Thy broken body and shed blood, shall be cleansed from every spot and stain, and shall be able to reveal in their own earthly lives something of the beauty and the holiness of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We claim our entrance through the Blood of the Cross, and we stand in Thy presence now with no accusation between us and Thee. Thanks be unto God for this joyous entrance into life more abundant. Thanks be unto God for that power and grace, which enables us always to triumph in Christ Jesus. Thanks be unto God who hath called into this fellowship men and women from the common walks of life, from the common round of toil. Be with us as through the blood of Jesus, we claim our privilege. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Dispense the Wine.

Closing Prayer—

Hear in heaven, Thy dwelling place, O God, every vow and promise that have been made unto Thee at this Table ; and when Thou hearest, do Thou send down Thy help, that we may be made strong enough in Jesus Christ, our Lord, to pay unto the Lord what we have vowed.

We have rededicated ourselves to Thy service in this House to-day. O Lord, accept our sacrifice, we pray Thee, and fill our hearts with blessing, and our hands with service. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We have laid aside the weights and the sins which do so easily beset us. Help us now to set our faces to the race

that is before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

We have given again our lives to Thy most holy keeping. O God, accept our gift, though it be poor ; and make us all feel that we are Thine, through the heritage to which we have succeeded by the Will and Testament of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We remember specially our young Communicants this morning. We thank Thee for their faith, and for their willing profession of their faith. And we pray that they may be blest in the ministrations of Thy House ; that they may prove themselves helpful in all her work and ways ; that they may enjoy the fellowship of one another, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Do not suffer them to fall ; do not let them faint or grow weary in their faith ; do not let them lose the vision of God and of His love. But keep them near Thy heart ; and strengthen them with might by Thy Spirit in the inner man. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We remember very specially those who are not able to be with us this morning, and to sit down at Thy Table, and to share Thy feast. We pray that Thou, who art not confined to Temples made with hands, wilt make a Temple for them wherever they are to-day, and whatever they are doing.

We remember all who are far from us, on the sea, or in other lands. O God, Who holdest the seas in the hollow of Thine hand, keep our loved ones safe, and bless them with Thy presence.

We remember our beloved King and his household ; our country and her legislators. Bless and keep and save. Restore industry and prosperity to the land. Sweep aside the wave of materialism and crime that rages about us to-

day ; and bring us all into quiet ways, that we may lead lives that are sober, righteous, and godly. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise. Psalm lxxii, 17-19.

Offering.

Benediction.

PRAYER BEFORE THE CELEBRATION OF INFANT BAPTISM

O God, the Father,

Who hast opened the Kingdom of Heaven to the households of all believers,—wilt Thou bless with Thy gracious presence the household into which Thou hast sent this little child. May the presence of this child in the home draw the parents into closer relationship with the God of little children. May the little one be to them a constant reminder of the Kingdom of Heaven ; and from his innocence and sweetness may the parents learn how best to write the record of their own life's story clean.

O God, the Son,

Who hast said, " Suffer the little children to come unto me "—we bring this little child to Thee to-day, as mothers of Jerusalem brought their little ones in the days gone past ; and we pray thee to receive this child into Thy gracious arms ; and keep Him so near to Thine heart, that all throughout his earthly pilgrimage, he shall never wander far from Thy blessed side.

O God, the Holy Ghost,

Who hast assured us that the promises are to us and to our children,—hear us now, as we claim the promises of salvation and of peace, and of grace for this little child. And

wilt Thou fulfil these promises exceeding abundantly above what we can ask or think.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

AFTER THE BAPTISM OF A CHILD

Ratify in Heaven, O Father, what we have done on earth ; and write the name of this little child into the Lamb's Book of Life.

Give wisdom to the parents of this child, that they may be able to lead their little one to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Give patience to the parents, that they may not be weary in well-doing ; but may endure in faith, as seeing Him who is invisible.

Give grace to the child, that she may early make choice of that better part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Give integrity and uprightness to the members of this Church, that, for the children's sake, they may behave themselves wisely in the sight of God and of their fellow-men, and so encourage by their godly example, holiness, justice, goodness and truth in the lives of those who shall look up to them.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BEFORE THE CELEBRATION OF A MARRIAGE

O God, Who hast loved us with everlasting love,—we thank Thee for all that Thou hast done to sweeten and to bless our human life. We thank Thee that to the joy of the world and to its gladness, Thou hast added the sweetness and the beauty of human love, by which our lives are transfigured, and our earthly homes yield us a foretaste of Heaven itself.

We thank Thee for these Thy two servants, whom Thou hast crowned with the benediction of human love, and hast led until this happy consummation. And as we meet here to make them one in Thy sight, we pray that Thy Presence will be with us. Thou, Who in the Person of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, didst come to the marriage in Cana, —vouchsafe to bless with Thy Presence this marriage to-day.

As at the marriage in Cana, Thou wert two natures, joined in perfect harmony, so do Thou join these two lives this day in a blessed unity. Be Thou the chief bond of union between them, that, with mutual respect and affection, they may learn ever more of that love which passeth knowledge through the joy and sweetness of their earthly love.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER THE CELEBRATION OF A MARRIAGE

O God, Who hast loved us with everlasting love, which was before the foundation of the world,—grant that these Thy two servants, who to-day are united in the bonds of holy wedlock, may rest their lives in the unchanging love of God, and from it may draw depth and sweetness and beauty into all their earthly relationships.

May the home, which their love is founding, be a Bethany, where Jesus Himself is oftentimes refreshed ; and where, in the clatter and dust of the world, their own souls will be enriched by His presence.

May their lives be a benediction, outgoing in love and tenderness to all who see and know them.

May their married life be a journeying with Christ on the Emmaus road, where drudgery will be transfigured by Christ's presence, and sorrow become illumined by His message.

May all their future be transfigured by their love, so that in the darkness they shall ever see the stars of promise; in life's silences, they shall hear the voice of God; and amid its clouds they shall always see the silver lining.

Breathe into their hearts that adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which will enable them to bear and to forbear with one another in the spirit of Him who causeth all things to work together for good to them that love God. And so, from the sweetness and grace of human love, may they come to learn more and more of the love that passeth knowledge. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

O God, our Father, Who art the Author of our being, and the Home of our spirits,—we adore Thee as the Giver of Life: we bow in reverence before Thee as the Sender of Death. It is God Who gives; and it is God Who takes away. Blessed be the Name of the Lord!

We thank Thee, Father, that Thou hast made it possible for us, poor children of dust, to seek Thy Face in every experience of life through which we pass. We thank Thee, that in our toil, Thou art our inspiration; that in our weakness Thou art our strength; in our fear Thou art our encourager; and in our sorrows, Thou art ever "the acquaintance of grief."

Especially do we thank Thee for this, that in sorrow's lonely hour, Thou knowest what is in man; and by Thy kind and gentle care hast made it possible for the sorrow-laden soul to seek Thee, and to tell its tale of burden and of heart-ache into the ear of a Father, Who is ready to hear and to understand.

To-day, in the presence of sorrow and of death,—we, Thy stricken servants, would seek Thy face. When our hearts are burdened, and when our eyes are dim, our need of Thee

is brought home to us, and we cry with Thy disciple, " Lord, to whom can we go but unto Thee ; Thou hast the words of eternal life."

We give Thee thanks that we sorrow not as those who have no hope. For, believing that Jesus died, and rose again, we are possessed of a lively hope of resurrection and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. And we thank Thee, that this, our brother, whom Thou hast taken from us, knew this and believed it too. And our hearts are comforted, when we think of him in the Father's House of many mansions, and in the company of those whom he has loved and lost awhile.

For all the good that we knew of Thy departed servant, we give Thee thanks, O God. For his honesty and uprightness ; for his hatred of what was mean and hypocritical ; for his courage in defence of what was upright and honourable ; for his usefulness among those in whose midst he lived and moved.

We remember before Thee those who specially mourn his loss to-day. We pray on behalf of the widow and family that Thou wouldst comfort them by Thy gracious Presence, who art Father of the fatherless, and Husband of the widow. Fulfil to them Thy ministry of consolation, and realise to them the promise, " I will not leave you comfortless ". Even in those hours when the loss is so recent, and the heart is so heavy, do Thou send them the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Be with us now as we go to the grave, to pay our last respects to the body of our friend. And as we commit his body to the grave, we shall do so in the sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

AN ORDER FOR A CHRISTMAS SERVICE

I

Doxology.

Prayer—

O God, Who on the first Christmas day, didst give to the world the most precious of Thy gifts;—look upon us this Christmas Sabbath, we beseech Thee, and give to us the gift of the Holy Ghost; that through Him we may be brought into personal touch with the Christmas Child, and may be brightened by His presence, and cheered by His message, and uplifted by His touch.

O God, Who on that first Christmas, didst send Thine angels to sing their songs of gladness and of peace;—give us the joyous spirit of these angels, we pray Thee; and take from our hearts anything that would hinder us from entering into the joy of the Lord. Tune our hearts, that we, too, like the angels, may sing praises to Thy Holy Name, and may help other hearts to rejoice.

O God, Who, on that first Christmas, didst bring to the feet of the Christmas Child wise men from afar to offer their tribute of adoration and of praise;—do Thou bring every wise soul within this Church to the feet of Jesus, that we may lay upon His altar the gold and frankincense and myrrh of our hearts, and may make complete surrender of our lives to Him,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise. Paraphrase xxxvii.

Read Luke ii, 8-20.

Praise, "Hark! the herald angels sing".

Prayer—

O God, from Whom all blessings flow:—we thank Thee for the blessings which are daily round about us;—the

blessings of the day, with its light and its activity; the blessings of the night, with its quietness and rest; the blessings of our homes, with their love and their laughter; the blessings of our friends, with their kindness and their trust. Our hearts are bowed before Thee in gratitude for all Thy blessings; and our prayer is that Thou wouldst make us worthier of these, Thy gracious benefits,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, from Whom all blessings flow,—we thank Thee most of all to-day for the blessings which come to us through Jesus Christ, the Christmas Child.

We thank Thee for the warmer atmosphere that He brought with Him to this world,—the breath of heaven which He breathed into this world, and which has never left it since He came. Help us, we pray Thee, who are His visible representatives on earth, so to breathe that atmosphere of kindliness and of love, and so to diffuse it abroad, as we move among our fellow men, that ever more and more of the breath of heaven will lie about our land, and will sanctify our common things, and help us to draw men and women a little nearer to Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for the new start, the new beginning which He brought to our lives,—that He freed us from the burden of our sin, and made it possible for us to turn our backs upon the past, and to turn our faces toward God. O grant that no soul in this Church may miss the opportunity that this service offers, of turning from sin to God. Grant that every one of us may accept, as a Christmas gift to-day that everlasting life which Jesus offers now; and may, with glad and humble heart, begin to trust Thee for time and for eternity,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

As on that first Christmas morning men journeyed from afar that they might lay before Thee their gold, and frankincense, and myrrh; so we would come from different homes and from different stations in life, and lay before Thee the gifts we have to offer.

Take the gold of our toil, for it is Thine. We thank Thee for it ; and we pray that Thou wouldst give us all work to do, and strength to do it.

Take the frankincense of our prayers : we lay it on Thine altar. Give us the true spirit of prayer, that when we approach Thee through Jesus the Christmas Child, the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts may be acceptable in Thy sight.

Take the myrrh of our sacrifice,—any sacrifice we have made for Thee, or for our fellow men ; and help us, through the sacrificial spirit, to come closer to the spirit of the Christmas Child, who loved us, and gave Himself for us.

Let none of us miss Thee in this service, O Christ, unworthy though all of us are, either to see Thee, or to speak with Thee.

These our prayers we present unto Thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who hath taught us when we pray thus to say,—" Our Father, which art in heaven," etc.

Praise. " Once in royal David's city."

Intimations.

Offering.

Prayer—

O God, Who didst not withhold from us the most precious thing that was Thine to give, even the life of Thy dear Son, —accept, we pray Thee, the gifts which we bring to Thy Treasury this day, and use them for Thine own purposes,— for the spread of Thy Kingdom ; for the brightening of dark homes ; for the uplifting of lonely lives,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who art the King of Kings ;—bless our King, we pray Thee, and all his royal house. Bless the land we love the most, and prosper her in all her undertakings. Crown with the spirit of wisdom and reverence all those who lead her counsels. And as the old year dies, may all ill feeling and contention cease ; and may the peace of God crown our beloved land,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise. *" See ! in yonder manger low."*

Sermon.

Prayer.

O God, Who in love towards us, didst not spare Thy Son, Thine only Son, but didst give Him up for us all,—grant that we, who this day have been thinking about Thy gracious gift, may accept Jesus for our own Saviour.

He gave Himself for us. Hear us now, as in the stillness of this Church and in the silence of our hearts, we give ourselves to Thee. For Jesus sake. Amen.

Service of gifts for Mission Sabbath School.

Superintendent of Mission Sabbath School returns thanks.

Praise. *" The wise may bring their learning."*

Benediction.

AN ORDER FOR A CHRISTMAS SERVICE

2

Doxology.

Prayer.

O God, Who, on the first Christmas morning, didst send Thine angels to the earth with messages of peace and of

good-will,—be pleased, we pray Thee, to breathe on us this Christmas Sabbath, that we may catch something of their gladness and of their joy. Draw nigh to us, and speak with each one here. And let every one present have his vision of the angels, and ere this service is finished, his vision, too, of Christ.

Lift us above life's common things, and life's common ways. And give us to feel that for a little time at least, we are shut in with Christ, as the wise men were on that first Christmas morn. We too would bring the gold, frankincense, and myrrh of our lives, and would lay them on Thine altar, that they may be used for Thy high purposes.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Praise. Paraphrase xxxvii.

Read Luke ii, 1-20.

Praise. "O Little town of Bethlehem."

Prayer—

O God, Who art always thinking of us, and about us,—we thank Thee for the Christmas gift of the Child Jesus, and for all that He has meant to the life of the world. We thank Thee, that, into our busy planning and scheming, that into our toiling and endeavour, the message of Christmas speaks to us of the Unseen and the Eternal; and bids us, in our hurry and our eagerness, live for these things that are more than meat and raiment, even for the measure of the fulness of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee that in the message of the Christmas Child we read the message of the love of God,—"God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son". We thank Thee that behind all the tangle of life, beyond its weary problems and its unsolved mysteries, there glows and burns this love that gave the Son for our salvation. And when our

hearts are saddened, and the problems of pain and of loss come pressing heavily upon our spirits ; when the nights are dark, and the light has gone from our hearts ; when the heart is empty, and the cold grave is full ;—then we shall look away from the darkness to the light that glows beyond, and in that light shall feel something of the warmth of the love that passeth knowledge,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee, that in Thy Christmas Child, we have a message of Thy love for little children. That because God was once a child, all children are holy ;—that because God once dwelt in a little human life, there still remains among the little children something of the fragrance of heaven ;—that because human parents were once kind and loving to the little Jesus, therefore at Christmas time we seek to do a kindness to all children, and bring a little warmth and love into their homes and hearts. Bless all those who have done kindness to the children at this season. May the blessing of the children's God be theirs this Christmas time, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee that from that Christmas Child we learn that God can dwell within a human life. And we pray very specially to-day that every heart within this Church would open to give Thee admittance now ; that from every heart within these pews the invitation might come, " Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus ". Come and dwell within us ; take up Thine abode within our hearts, and become " a gracious, willing guest " to every one who is here.

" Our Father, which art in heaven," etc.

Praise. Anthem. " Arise, shine, for thy light is come."

Address Children, " The Meaning of the Gift Service ".

Intimations.

Offering.

Prayer—

O God, Who at the first Christmas season didst give to the world the richest and most precious gift which Thou didst have to bestow,—accept, we pray Thee, these humble gifts of ours,—the fruit of our toil and our sacrifice,—and use them for Thine own high purposes,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise, " Once in royal David's city ".

Sermon.

Prayer—

O Christ, Whose Christmas message of life is being proclaimed over all the world to-day ;—grant that everywhere this gift may be received ; and that through it we all may enter into a deeper experience of grace and of strength, and may enjoy that " life more abundant ", which Thou dost freely offer. We ask it in Thy name. Amen.

The Children of the Sunday School bring their gifts.

The Superintendent of the Mission Sunday School accepts them, and thanks the children.

Praise. " We give Thee but Thine own."

Benediction.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

I

O God, Who art the Alpha and the Omega of all Creation ; the Beginning and the End of Time ; the First and the Last of our mortal lives;—we thank Thee that, in Thy love and mercy, Thou hast brought us to the first Sabbath of a

New Year. And we pray that, throughout our service, Thou wilt lead us to make decisions, and to form resolutions, and to make surrenders, that will influence our whole walk and conversation throughout the days and seasons of the year which we have entered.

Breathe upon us Thy Holy Spirit, that every one to whom Thou hast given this new opportunity, may pay heed to its voices, that are summoning them to higher life; may listen to its calls, that are rousing them to action; may give ear to its warnings, that are urging them to turn away from sin and evil. Come into our hearts, O Spirit of purity and grace, and dominate our lives throughout the whole year, and throughout all our earthly years.

For Jesus' sake. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

2

O Christ, Who art the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last,—we would come to Thee on this first Sabbath of another year, and would put ourselves, our service, and our all into Thy holy keeping and under Thy gracious care. Be Thou to us the Alpha and Omega of our desires; and fulfil unto Thy waiting people the promise to give them their hearts' desires.

Be unto us the Alpha and the Omega of all our services here. At the start of a New Year we would rededicate ourselves to Thee, so that Jesus may be the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Ending of all our endeavours and ideals in this Church. Be Thou the Soul of all our Singing in Congregation and in Choir; the chief Petition of all our prayers in public and in private. In all our Reading, be Thou the Rest and Refuge of our souls; and in all our preaching, may we ever be led to Thee, as the Propitiation for sin and for uncleanness.

Inspire our services ; breathe upon our efforts ; and may all our work throughout the coming year be to the praise and the glory of God.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

3

O God, our Father, when we look back across the year which we have traversed, our hearts are sometimes sore. For we know that we have failed Thee, and have not done the thing we should. We cannot hide our sins from Thee ; we cannot cover our transgressions from Thy sight. If we should try to do so, the voices of the past would testify against us, and the fingers of the past would point their accusations at us. Forgive us where we have failed Thee ; forgive us where we have disappointed Thine expectations of us ; forgive us where we have fallen so far short of our own ideals. We approach Thee because we cannot do without Thee ; and because Thou art good and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to all that call upon Thee. Take the burden from our souls ; take the sin from our hearts ; forgive us according to Thy loving kindness, and according to the goodness of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

When we look in upon our present life, with all its weakness and its want of faith, we are afraid lest we should not be able to run with patience our appointed race throughout this year, or to win to its close with faith undimmed and hearts undaunted. And so we come to lay our lives upon Thine altar, that, through the spirit of self-surrender, through a new consecration to our tasks and to our ideals, we may find strength for service, and may endure, as seeing Him who is invisible, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

When we look forward to the future, with all its menace and with all its charm, we know that we cannot face its dangers without Thee, nor venture alone upon its untried

ways. Come Thou and be about us. Come, and take our hand. And however dark the road, or rough the going, we shall know that we are not alone, for our Father is with us.

Remember those who are happy at this New Year Season, and grant that their happiness may be deepened by having Thee among their company.

Remember those who are sad at this New Year Season ; to whom these silent days bring sad associations and wistful memories of those who are no more.

Remember those who feel lonely in the midst of all the fellowship of the New Year Season. Speak unto them as Thou didst to Thy servant in the lonely wilderness, and say, " My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest ". So shall they hear Thy voice on every road, and so shall the journey of the year become a glad, sweet song.

These things we would ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who hath taught us when we pray, thus to say,— " Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

4

O God, to Whom our lives are but as yesterday, when it is past, and as a watch in the night,—wilt Thou hear us this morning, as we look upon our little lives from the vantage-ground of a New Year, and ask Thee to lift them above the little things and the petty ways of this world, and to link their littleness with Thy greatness, and their weakness with Thy strength. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are conscious of many things in our lives that are unworthy and sinful. And ere we journey further into this

New Year, we would lay open the book of our lives before Thee, and, with confession on our lips, and penitence in our hearts, would ask Thee, through the Blood of the Cross, to wash out all our stains.

It is because we know that Thou delightest in mercy, that we tell Thee of our failures, our broken vows, our frequent defeats. It is because we know that the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting, that we hand Thee the pages of our sinful past, and make appeal to the Everlasting Mercy. It is because we know that Thy mercy endureth for ever, that we tell Thee of yesterday's failures, of our present weakness, and of our future fears.

O Christ, Who, through the Cross, hast brought hope to the weakest sinner, and forgiveness to the greatest,—help us all to come to-day under the shadow of the Cross, and there to find peace and mercy.

As we look back at the Old Year and its doings from the vantage-ground of to-day, we are conscious, very conscious of the love and goodness of God. We have felt Thy hand about us every day of our lives, for good, and not for evil. We have recognised Thy step beside us, keeping pace with our faltering footsteps, " through each perplexing path of life ". We have heard Thy voice about us in the busy day and in the silent watches of the night, saying unto us, " This is the way ; walk ye in it ", when we were in danger of turning to the right hand or to the left. And we have seen Thy face, we have known Thy smile, in the great wealth of affection with which Thou hast surrounded us in our earthly homes, among our friends and acquaintance, and in the wider circle of our fellow-men.

We know ourselves to be unworthy of such warmth and goodwill ; but with hearts that bow in gratitude before Thee, we give thanks to Thee as the Giver of all good, and the Source and Fountain Head of all Love. And we pray that Thou wouldst make us worthier of those who love us,

and who trust us, and in whose love and trust we have beheld the Face of God.

We pray for others :—For those, who, in these happy days have been passing through sorrow, and who have made acquaintance with pain. May their tears be to them the glass through which they see Thee. And if their vision at times is dull, may they follow its leading till at last they come to see Thee face to face.

For families united by the goodwill of the season. The Lord be with them everywhere, and bless their meeting one with another.

For loved ones far away, and near at hand ;—out on the sea, or in distant countries, or in other towns. O Christ, through whom all families of the earth are blessed, and to whom our places everywhere are known,—be near them all to-day, and link us with them in these sacred hours of service.

For our Country,—that this New Year may be to her a very happy New Year,—a Year of Peace and of Prosperity, —a year of better understanding and of better relationships between men,—a Year when our dear Land shall receive showers of blessing from above, and when God shall come to visit His people.

For our King and all his royal house, that they may be upheld by the prayers and by the love of their people ; and that they may abide strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE EASTER SERVICE

I

Spirit of God, Who, by Thy living breath didst, on that first Easter Sabbath, bring again from the dead our Lord

Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting Covenant ;—do Thou quicken with Thy breath every soul here to-day and cause each of us to make response to Thine advances, as Thou dost plead with our hearts and spirits within those sacred walls.

It is to Thee, O God, that our hearts and spirits turn. Above all the noise and the confusion of the earth, we hear Thy voice, and it bids us rise and follow Thee. Amidst the love and the laughter and the pleasure of the world, we find our hearts dissatisfied without Thee. Beyond all the unrest and the uncertainty of our lives to-day, we feel the urge of Thy divine Spirit, that calls us to Thy side.

Come unto us, O Christ, as Thou didst come to the disciples who were gathered in the Upper Room on that first Easter Sabbath. Shut us in with Thyself for a little time, and speak with us. And so prepare every one of us for Thy message to-day, that every one of us will hear and understand what God, the Lord, will speak.

We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE EASTER SERVICE

2

O God, our Father,—as on that first Easter morn, the disciples did run from the empty Tomb with fear, and with great joy, to proclaim that death held no dominion over our blessed Lord, and that He was not in the Tomb, but was risen into newness of life ;—grant unto us, who stand to-day in the place of the disciples,—the messengers from the empty Tomb,—that something of the joy and gladness of that first Easter Sabbath may be upon our spirits now ; and that all our teaching and our preaching to-day may be inspired with the consciousness of triumphant certainty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for all that the resurrection means to us. For the assurance it brought to us of immortality and of eternal life. We thank Thee that by the Resurrection Thou hast answered the hope of our hearts,—Thou hast responded to the hunger of our souls after life. O grant, we pray Thee, that we may so grasp the opportunities of every passing service, that we shall be ready to spend that eternal life in Thy nearer presence, and in Thy conscious service, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We thank Thee for the note of triumph that the Resurrection has brought into our lives. For the assurance that He, who triumphed over sin and death, will not leave us to fail or to break down utterly, but will teach us in the end to say, " Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ." Look on our sorely tempted souls ; breathe into them the quickening of resurrection life and enable us to overcome, as He also overcame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God.

We thank Thee for the comfort of the Resurrection Gospel ; for the assurance that it is not death to die ; that our loved ones are alive and with Thee, in power, and strength, and love. Seek out every sorrowing soul this day, we pray Thee, and reveal unto them something of the freshness, of the fragrance of that new life, where there is neither sorrow, nor crying, but where God has wiped away the tears from off all faces.

As in these Easter days the flowers and the buds of the earth come forth to greet the sunshine, so may our hearts uprise with joy and gladness to welcome Thee among us, and to bid Thee take Thy mighty power and rule and reign among us,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Any sin that stands between us and Thee, do Thou forgive, for Jesus sake. For it was in order that we might be forgiven, that Jesus both died, and rose again, and ascended into the heavens for us. Let no sin dominate us this blessed

day. O Thou, who knowest all, do Thou forgive all,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE EASTER SERVICE

3

(After the Offering).

O Christ, who, through the Resurrection Gospel, didst give new life to the world,—we would express our gladness by our gifts to Thee, and to Thy holy cause to-day. Accept these offerings of ours, we pray Thee, and use them, as Thou thinkest best, to the furtherance of Thine own cause and Kingdom. We ask it for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE ON ARMISTICE DAY.
Nov. 11th.

10.40 *Introductory Requiem.*

10.45 *Introit, "O Dayspring!"*

10.48 *Prayer—*

O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, do Thou forgive us for Thy name's sake; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against Thee. O the Hope of Israel! The Saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldst Thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night? Why shouldst Thou be as a man astonished, as a mighty man that cannot save! Yet Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us; and we are called by Thy name: leave us not.

Spirit of God, Who canst draw into a unity all our hearts, with all their varied needs, their different hungers, their wistfulness and their desire,—so wilt Thou gather us, and draw us into one to-day, that every heart shall be touched to finer issues, and every will be tuned to nobler endeavours in Thy service. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

10.50 *Hymn "Still on the homeward journey."*

10.55 *Scripture Sentences.*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem ; for the Lord hath comforted his people.

For a small moment have I forsaken thee ; but with everlasting mercies will I gather thee.

In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment ; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord, thy Redeemer.

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee.

O thou afflicted, tossed with a tempest, and not comforted . . . in righteousness shalt thou be established : thou shalt be far from oppression, for thou shalt not fear ; and from terror, for it shall not come nigh thee.

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper ; and every tongue that shall rise in judgment against thee shalt thou condemn.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree ; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

For thy light shall break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily ; and thy righteousness shall go before thee ; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward.

And they that shall be of thee, shall build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the old foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, "The repairer of the Breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in."

For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head . . . So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in as a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Sheba for thee; since thou wast precious in my sight. . . and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life . . . I will bring thy seed from the East, and gather thee from the west. I will say to the north, "Give up"; and to the south, "Keep not back!" Bring my sons from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth.

Fear not thou, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God.

11 *o'clock. SILENCE.*

11.2 *Prayer—*

For all that has helped to make life sweeter, nobler, better.

For every high resolve, and every noble ambition.

For all pure, and strong, and purposeful manhood.

For all womanly ministrations, whereby life has been made sweeter and easier.

For all self-sacrifice by which liberties have been purchased, and the earth made cleaner and kindlier.

We give Thee thanks, O God!

With hearts that are proud, in spite of all their pain,—we thank Thee, Father.

With hearts that still dare to sing, in the hour of their sorrows,—we praise and bless Thee, O Thou Man of Sorrows!

With hearts that are comforted even in carrying their Cross, —we praise Thee, O Holy Ghost, the Comforter!

O Thou, Who givest beauty for ashes! By the dust and ashes of our dead, we pray Thee, bring beauty to our world.

O Thou, Who givest the oil of joy for mourning,—help us in faith to see that their sacrifice has not been in vain!

O Thou, Who bringest light in the midst of darkness,—bring the dayspring from on high to visit us, and to assure us, that, in spite of the night, that enfolds Thy world, the Sun of Righteousness has arisen, with healing in his wings,—even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Choir. *"Blest are the Departed."*

Read. *Hebrews xi*, 32-40.

Praise. *"For all the saints who from their labours rest."*

Prayer—

O God by Whose word the heavens were of old, and the earth, standing out of the water, and in the water,—wilt Thou bless this earth in which we live, and hasten the time when, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, Thy Name shall be "honoured, loved, exalted", among all people.

O God, Who hast made the human heart, so that it loves one portion of this earth more than any other,—wilt Thou hear us, as we ask Thee that Thy richest blessing may be given unto this land which we love the most, and for which brave men have died, and dear women have suffered. Exalt our beloved land, we pray Thee, and translate her from the gloom and the twilight into the clear, shining light of Thine eternal truth and righteousness,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Whose Name is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, do Thou bless, we pray Thee, our gracious King George,

and his Queen, our beloved Prince of Wales, and all the members of the Royal House. Grant that they, being inspired by the spirit of the King, the Lord of Hosts, may lead lives that will be an example of true piety, and that will encourage others to live after the pattern of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O God, Who art a Spirit of wisdom and understanding,—wilt Thou put wisdom into all the King's Counsellors and Legislators, that by their wise and godlike decisions the world may be saved from war and from disaster, and that nations may be blest with sanity and with prosperity,—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who didst love thy Church and didst give Thyself for her life,—we beseech Thee to bless Thy Church in this and in other lands,—that her influence may be extended, and her mission may be fulfilled, and that her preachers may turn many to righteousness, and to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who for our sakes, didst suffer the agonies of Calvary ;—remember those, we pray Thee, who are still suffering for our sakes,—the wounded men who are unfitted for the harder tasks of life,—the broken men, whose service has helped to keep their country whole. So do Thou touch the hearts of all who employ men, that no wounded or broken men shall be left unemployed, so long as there is work to do.

O Lord Jesus Who became the Great Sacrifice,—our Passover, that was sacrificed for us,—we remember with love and gratitude those who by their sacrifice for us on battlefields, have entered into Thy sacrifice, and known its meaning. We do not mourn them to-day. We praise Thee for their spirit, and we are content to leave them in Thy Holy hands.

" Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in

heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Anthem. "There is a land beyond the setting sun."

Intimations.

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Prayer—

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be!

Our money! It is Thine! Bless it to Thine own uses, in this and in other lands, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our lives! They are Thine! We hold them from Thee. Accept them anew, as we lay them on Thine altar.

Our loves! They are Thine! They were Thine! We only know the meaning of love, because Thou hast first loved us. We give them again to Thee. Living they are in Thy service. Dead they are in Thy hands. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise. Paraphrase xviii, 3-7.

Sermon.

Prayer—

Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

For the life of Jesus Christ, who hath given us an example that we should do as He has done, and love, even as also He has loved.

For the death of Jesus Christ, which hath brought eternal salvation to every one that believeth, and hath entrusted himself to Thy holy keeping.

For the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, whereby we are assured that death shall not have dominion over us, but that life and immortality shall be our portion.

For His appearance after the Resurrection, whereby we are encouraged to believe that we shall not only meet our dead again, but that we shall know them and love them, in the land of Thine eternal Presence. Amen.

Praise. Psalm cxxiv, 2nd Version.

Benediction.

" Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father ; to Him be glory and dominion, for ever and ever. Amen."

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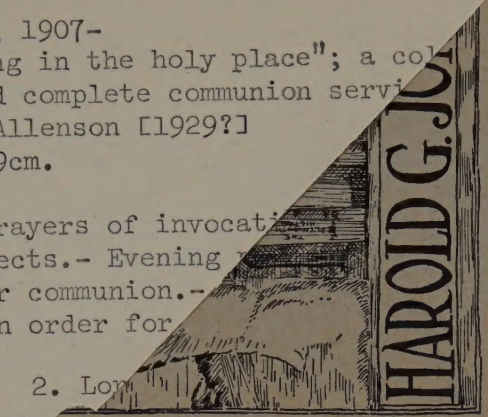

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